

NEW ZEALAND

Handyman

**GARDEN
IDEAS**
FOR SMALL
SPACES

RENOVATE
A WHOLE HOUSE
FOR \$12,500

BUILD
WALL SHELVES TO
FIT YOUR SPACE

DECORATE
THE DINING ROOM
ON A BUDGET

design
LUXURY BATHROOMS

**FAST
EASY DIY**
*Tile paint
update*
p28



READER'S DIGEST MAGAZINES



\$7.20 • OCTOBER 2015



OAKRIDGE WALL HUNG VANITIES

Take your bathroom to the next level with the Oakridge wall hung vanity. This contemporary styled bathroom vanity range comes in four sizes to accommodate nearly any bathroom space.

The Oakridge vanity features soft close draws, a chrome satin handle, hard-wearing composite stone top and convenient overflow. Tapware not included.

2015 NEW SHOWER RANGE
New styles and sizes available in store!

EMILIO SLIDING

A modern sliding shower with stylish frameless glass. This enclosure is a practical solution for when space is limited. Package options includes the Ezi-Lay tile tray or an acrylic tray with one piece seamless acrylic wall liner.

GEORGIA SQUARE NEW

A modern pivoting shower with a stylish low profile frame. A great option for an alcove or as a standard two sided shower enclosure. Options include an acrylic tray with one piece seamless acrylic wall liner.

GEORGIA CURVED NEW

The Georgia Curved shower enclosure is a modern corner shower with a double sliding door. This is the perfect solution to maximise space in tight bathroom spaces. Package options include an acrylic tray and a one piece seamless acrylic wall liner .





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OCTOBER ISSUE



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THIS ISSUE

EDITOR'S LETTER



PRODUCT OF THE MONTH

Stiff, squeaky doors are a thing of the past, thanks to a breakthrough in hinge technology from Zenith.

The new DURAsmooth range of hinges features a unique polyamide coating over the hinge pin to provide greater durability and smoother door operation.

Suitable for indoor and outdoor use, DURAsmooth hinges come in a wide variety of styles (itwproline.com.au/zenithdurasmooth).

With spring having sprung, we're all geared up for a busy spell in the garden.

This issue of *Handyman* features what to plant to attract honey bees, as these beneficial insects are essential to human food sources, on page 102.

We also have a guide to the art of propagation, a good way to save money when gardening, on page 95.

Bathroom makeovers

One of the most important rooms in the house, and one that can seal the deal when selling, is the bathroom.

When choosing what you're going to do to update it, there are factors to consider, including the budget and amount of DIY you want to participate in, plus deciding if it should be a quick facelift or a full-on renovation.

We show you how to paint tiles for instant impact and how to give the whole bathroom a cosmetic makeover. It is amazing what difference a new towel rail, taps and handles can do to revamp this space, on page 28.

There's also a bathroom overhaul done by tradies where the budget was less of a concern, on page 24.

Investment property secrets

Dipping your toe into the investment property market can be scary, and good planning is important. Find out how to maximise your return by avoiding five common mistakes, on page 48.

Deciding what to spend money on when renovating depends on the area, so it's best to get local advice first.

But there are lots of ways to make a place appealing to potential tenants. On page 40, we feature a before and after makeover I've just completed and show just what can be achieved in 10 days with \$12,500.

Enjoy the issue,

MANAGING EDITOR
LEE DASHIELL



ABOVE Bees love species roses, such as *Rosa rugosa*, see page 102.
RIGHT A freestanding bathtub takes centrestage, see page 16.



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Reader's
digest
AUSTRALIA

PUBLISHED BY READER'S DIGEST (AUSTRALIA) PTY LTD
(ABN 81000565471) 80 BAY ST, ULTIMO, NSW 2007
© 2015 READER'S DIGEST (AUSTRALIA) PTY LTD
PREPRESS BY SINNOTT BROS
UNIT 7, 108-120 SILVERWATER ROAD, SILVERWATER NSW 2128
PRINTED BY TIMES PRINTERS PTE LTD, 16 TUAS AVE 5, SINGAPORE 639340
DISTRIBUTED BY GORDON & GOTCH



Handyman magazine is printed on PEFC-certified paper, providing an assurance that the paper is produced from sustainably managed forest, recycled and controlled source.

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HANDY STUFF



Mow 'n' play

Cut a cricket pitch on the back lawn with a cordless Ryobi One+ Lawn Mower, \$399. Just three or four passes with its 400mm cutting path will do the trick. The powerful motor runs on two One+ 18V batteries that are sold separately.

ryobi.co.nz

Tough it out

No matter how long the backyard cricket matches go on or how many runs are scored, Burnett's Coated Wearwell Hardwearing Lawn Seed, about \$14 for 1kg, will produce a wicket that will withstand it all (burnets.co.nz). Easy to establish, it's wear and tear resistant, and is coated with bird repellent, fungicide and a wetting agent.



Pitch perfect

Your wicket will look impeccable with Kiwicare Lawnpro TurfClean & Green, \$23 for 2L. It kills weeds, feeds lawns and greens grass with a no-mix, no-mess spray.

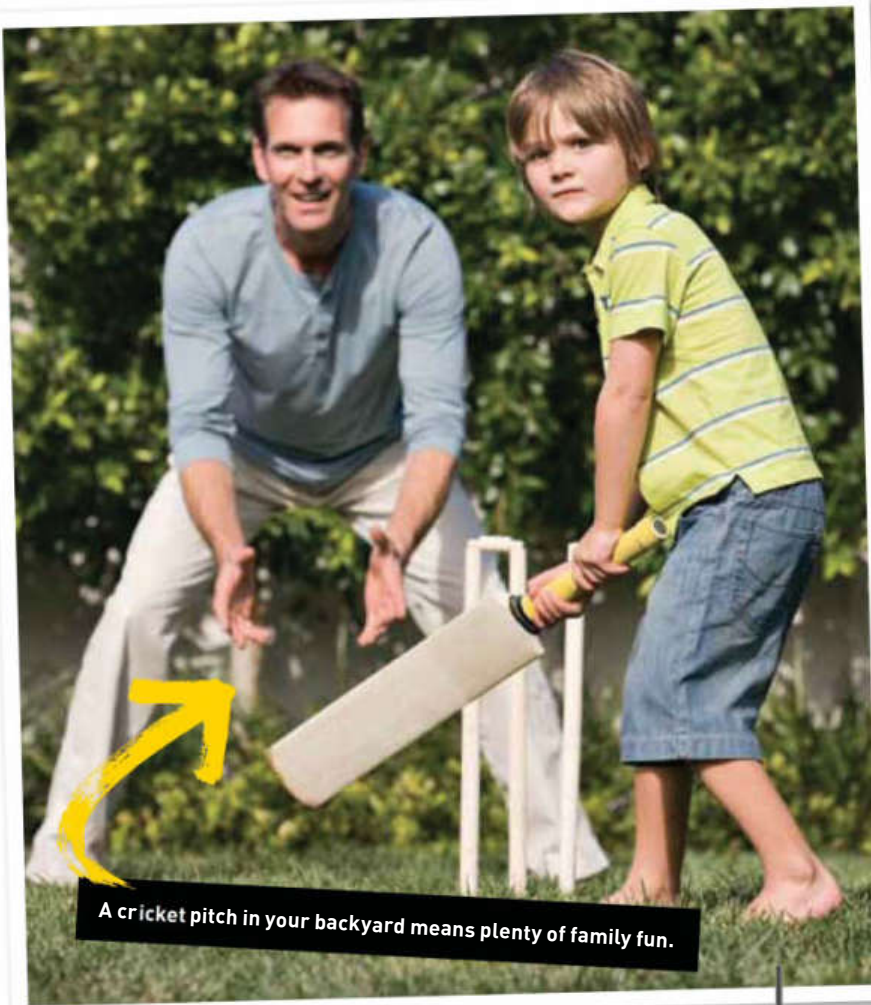
kiwicare.co.nz



THIS SPORTING LIFE GUIDE

Fill the weekend with sport, from backyard cricket to beach volleyball

WORDS ASHLEIGH PERRIOTT



A cricket pitch in your backyard means plenty of family fun.

War on weeds

Bring the lawn up to big-match standard with the McGregor's Cushion Grip Daisy Weeder, \$8 (mcgregors.co.nz). Its forked tip cuts deep to get at weed roots and the cradle on the stem is designed to lever out weeds.



Listen in

Don't miss a moment of the cricket season with the AEG 18V Compact Radio, \$89. Tune into AM or FM stations or listen on your phone via an AUX input jack. >

aegpowertools.co.nz





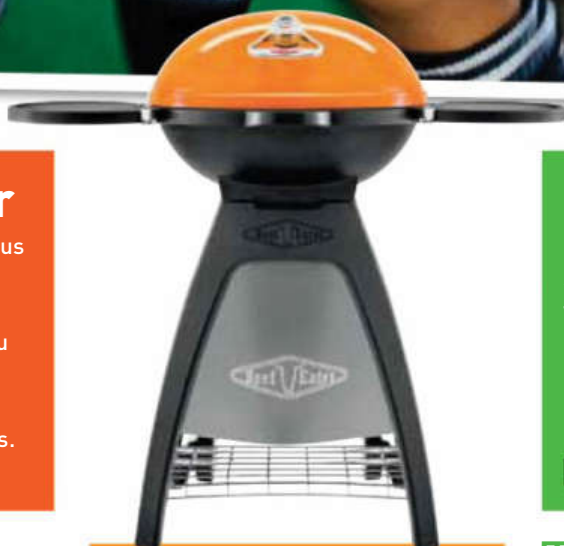
Get along to see the kids' sports for a day of real enjoyment.



Try-line tracker

Keep the ref in check with Olympus RC II WP Binoculars, \$129. With eight-times magnification and lenses with a 21mm diameter, you will see every mistake, try and knock-on up close and personal. Choose from blue or green bodies.

kiwibinoculars.co.nz



Kick-off cuisine

Pack some protein into players post game with the BeefEater Bugg BBQ, \$498, with trolley, \$222. It features two powerful independently controlled stainless steel burners and the high hood ensures even heat distribution.

beefeaterbbq.com

Fuel up fans

Keep the crowd keen with some quality coffee kept warm in a Thermos Dura Vac Flask, \$40. The 1.8L bottle has a double wall to retain maximum temperature and a lid you can use as a cup.

bunnings.co.nz



War paint

Get your game face on and support your team with the water-based, non-toxic Snazaroo Face Painting Kit, \$20 (jasco.com.au). Paint on any of the eight colours with the supplied brush or sponge. The paint is skin-friendly and easy to wash off.



Tackle hunger

Score big at the after-match eats with the Italio Clip Easy Lunchboxes, \$4 each (italio.co.nz).

Keep the food fresh in these sturdy 2L plastic containers that are microwave, freezer and dishwasher safe.



PICTURE (MAIN) THINKSTOCK

NOW IS THE TIME TO
CHECK YOUR POOL IS SAFE
LIVES DEPEND ON IT



Pool season is here. Protector Aluminium is working with Water Safety New Zealand to improve safety in and around pools. Sadly, every year too many young children lose their lives to drowning. Pool fencing and effective supervision can reduce these tragic drowning deaths to zero. Water Safety New Zealand and Protector Aluminium are targeting every home pool owner with a basic reminder to check, fix and maintain their home pool and surrounds in order to eliminate child drowning.

Download a pool safety checklist at www.protectoraluminium.com.au or scan the QR Code.



Be a lifesaver fence your pool with Protector Aluminium Pool Fencing – Available at Bunnings Warehouse
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www.protectoraluminium.com.au

Have fun in the sun with a game of beach volleyball.



Team tucker

Set out a spread in the stands with the Satara Four Person Light Wicker Picnic Basket, \$218. Kitted out with cutlery, plates, napkins and plastic cups for four, it also has a cheese-cutting board and salt and pepper shakers.

sagelifestyle.co.nz



Keep it cool

After a hot and hard game, serve the players cold drinks from the Esky 30-Can Hybrid Cooler, \$41. It has a hard inner liner and insulated soft outer cover, an easy-access lid and a shoulder carry strap. A removable ice brick fits in the lid.

bunnings.co.nz

Take cover

Catch the shade with a Coolaroo Beach Umbrella, \$49. The canopy can be easily tilted to keep the sun off and the 90% UV block fabric is breathable for added cooling. The steel frame is powdercoated. Simply hose off the sand after use.

galepacific.co.nz

Settle down

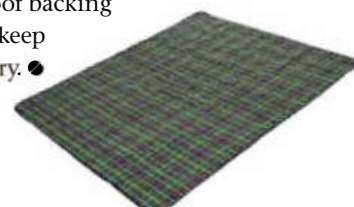
Watch the action from the comfort of a Marquee Padded Moon Chair, \$45 (bunnings.co.nz).



The fabric is durable polyester and the frame is made of powdercoated steel to withstand rust. It's lightweight and comes in a carry bag.

Blanket coverage

Bring comfort to the beach with the Coleman Picnic Blanket, \$20 (bunnings.co.nz). The polar fleece top is soft to lie on and the PVC waterproof backing helps to keep things dry. ●



PICTURE (MAIN) THINKSTOCK

Available at Bunnings

JUST IMAGINE When all the hard work's done, lie back and relax on the Mimosa 3 piece Day Bed. Generously proportioned, it is made from hardwearing, handwoven wicker over an aluminium frame and comes with comfortable UV treated polyester seat cushions topped with 4 throw pillows for a pop of colour. This versatile day bed includes a conveniently stored coffee table and can quickly be transformed into a casual seating area. **\$1,297.**

What's new

Spring has finally arrived, and with it comes a whole new range of outdoor furniture and barbecues at Bunnings. Here are some great ways to make your place shine during the warmer months ahead.

COCOON YOURSELF IN LUXURY

Gently rock your way through summer with the Mimosa Hanging Egg Chair. Made from long lasting, weather-resistant rattan weaving, this pod shaped seat is suspended from a durable powder coated steel frame with soft, oversized spun polyester padded cushions. **\$479.**

COOK UP A FEAST Create delicious meals for your family and friends on the Matador 6 Burner BBQ. Featuring grillsmart technology, it's finished with anti-fingerprint stainless steel and a gloss enamel frame. 163 x 62 x 122 cm. **\$999.**

BUNNINGS
warehouse



1. DAY DREAMS ARE MADE OF THIS Complete your resort style look with the Mimosa Timber sun lounger. Constructed from oiled FSC® eucalyptus timber and finished with olefin padded cushions, it's easy to imagine lying back and enjoying your favourite magazine or just taking in the sunshine. Dreams are affordable at just **\$399**.

2. FULL SIZE FLAVOUR A complete crowd pleaser, the Matador 6 burner outdoor kitchen has it all. Hardwearing composite stone bench top, glass viewing hood and stainless steel finish complete this contemporary BBQ. Featuring cast iron grill plates and side burner, it will give you a host of options for your outdoor entertaining this coming summer. 2365l X 675w x 1285h mm. **\$3449**.

3. PERFECT LAZY SUMMER DAYS The Mimosa Deva range offers striking contemporary style and durable design. The 4 piece lounge setting includes loveseat, two lounge chairs and a coffee table for cosy morning coffee or lazy summer afternoons. In the same natural oil finish and matching olefin padded cushions, it is designed to complement the 7 piece dining setting. **\$1297**.

4. FAMILY SIZED STYLE The 7 piece Deva dining setting by Mimosa is designed for looks and durability. Made with FSC® certified eucalyptus timber it is sure to last many summers. Including a large 1.8m table and 7 chairs, this generous setting is big enough to take the whole family. **\$1499**.



THE ULTIMATE IN RELAXATION

The new Mimosa Standing Egg Chair has a modern twist and solid foundation. Made with resin wicker and a durable powder coated frame, this summer's pod creates the perfect reading corner for sunny afternoons. It comes complete with four soft polyester cushions to add a layer of luxurious comfort. **\$499**.



DUAL STYLE AND DURABILITY The Mimosa 3 piece timber & aluminium bench setting will add contemporary style to any outdoor area. A perfect entertaining piece, the 1.8m table and two 1.6m benches mean there's plenty of room for everyone. With a rust resistant aluminium frame and FSC® certified eucalyptus timber, this durable setting is designed to withstand the elements. **\$1199**.



ISLAND RETREAT Escape the winter blues and soak up summer in the Waiheke wicker sun chair. Made of UV protected double round wicker and framed with durable rust resistant aluminium to withstand harsh conditions. Create a relaxed resort environment on your poolside, patio or deck for only **\$189**.



BUILT IN TECHNOLOGY Build this beauty into your outdoor area, with stainless steel hood and anti-fingerprint finish hood and fascia, this Matador 4 burner is sure to impress. Features an enamel cast iron grill, high temperature enamel body and grillsmart technology. 80.4 x 60.5 x 50 cm. **\$697**.

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Not all products featured are available in all stores, but may be ordered. Shelf prices may be lower than advertised to ensure lowest prices every day. We reserve the right to restrict the purchase of commercial quantities. All prices quoted are inclusive of GST. Prices valid until Wednesday 28th October 2015, or while stocks last.

DREAM BATHROOM

Boost luxury when renovating the bathroom using high-quality fixtures and surfaces

WORDS DANIEL BUTKOVICH

Caroma Cupid Above Counter Basin, from \$575.
caroma.co.nz

BUDGET TIP

Add affordable luxury by updating the most visible and frequently used parts of the bathroom, like tapware and lighting.



His and hers sinks are a simple bathroom addition and can transform the space by adding instant wow factor. Plus, they're invaluable during morning peak hour.



Get more bathroom design ideas
Like us at [facebook.com/HandymanMagazine](https://www.facebook.com/HandymanMagazine)

High-end bathrooms are one of the most sought after features in a modern home, and it's easy to see why. A relaxing, comfortable haven makes a house more liveable and increases value.

When creating a new bathroom from scratch, devote as much space to it as possible. Large layouts allow for inclusions like a bathtub, dual basins and extra storage.

If space is at a premium, focus on high-quality additions. ➤



A bathroom haven needs to be tidy, spacious and streamlined



The definition of opulence has to be a designer bathtub. Position it in the centre of the room to show off its shapely curves or in front of a window to take in the view.

Caroma Cupid Freestanding Bath, \$1995.



A concealed cistern toilet is a must-have for a minimalist bathroom. Have the cistern installed in the ceiling or wall and tuck the loo away in a nook to keep the room tidy.

Caroma Urbane Invisi Series II Toilet Suite, \$1099.

DESIGN TIP

Install a frameless glass shower screen and a large mirror to increase the sense of space in a bathroom.



Matt black bathroom fixtures are a hot design trend at the moment, and this look works especially well when paired with timber or white surfaces.



A luxury bathroom needs to be warm and inviting, and a combination light, heater and fan achieves this while providing ventilation in the one compact appliance.



Timber softens a modern monochrome colour scheme and the organic texture adds warmth to the room. Choose a duckboard mat for hygiene and style.

Use designer surfaces

High-quality tiles and benchtops make a big impact in a bathroom. Select premium surfaces like marble for feature walls and contrast this with modern flooring for a designer look.

Black is back when it comes to bathrooms, with classic monochrome getting a contemporary update.

Matt black fixtures catch the eye while hexagonal tiles add interest by creating a striking geometric pattern. ➤

Lifting the lid on choosing a toilet

While they often look similar, many toilet suites don't deliver on what you actually need: ease-of-use combined with quality that lasts.

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caroma.co.nz

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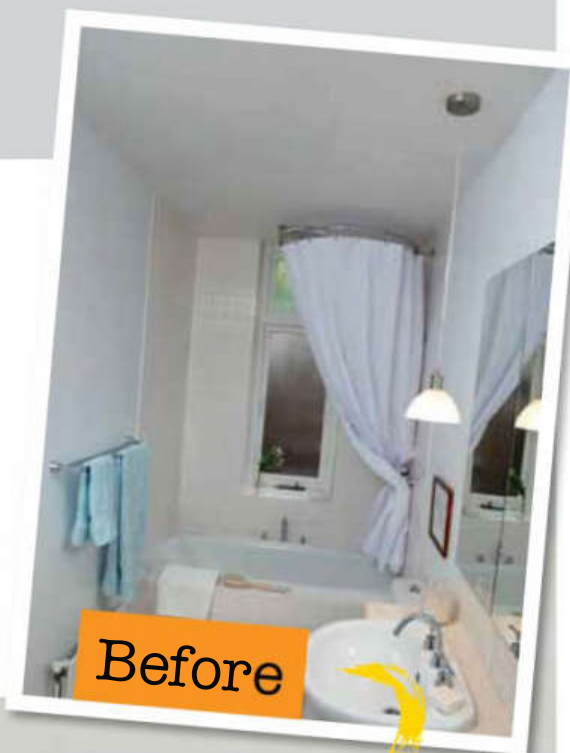


Boost the light

Skylights increase the light levels in a room, but it's not always possible to install a standard type, especially on the ground floor of a two-storey home.

The Illume Solar Shaftless Skylight, from about \$400, uses a solar panel and LEDs to replicate natural light indoors (astralsolutions.co.nz).

Sensors adjust the brightness of the skylight to match the light levels outside.



Before



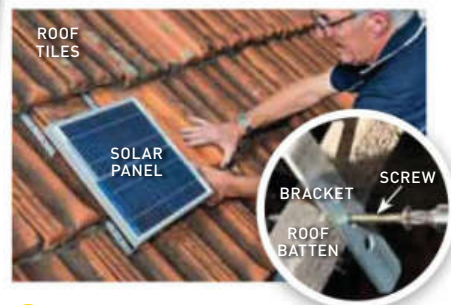
Skylights and windows can brighten up a bathroom by flooding it with natural light. Install a shaftless system in rooms where a traditional skylight isn't possible.



After

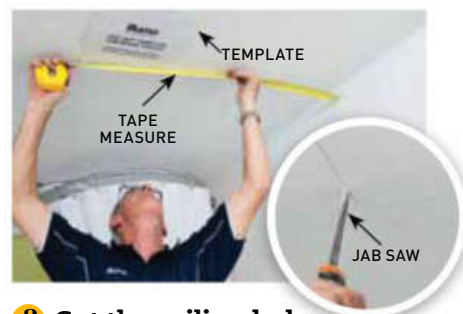
The skylight instantly brightens up this dimly lit bathroom.

1 2 3



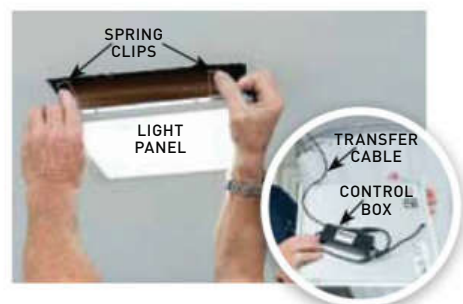
1 Attach the solar panel

Measure the length of the tile pitch and adjust the solar panel brackets to match. Remove tiles to expose battens, then attach the brackets to the battens using the supplied screws. Feed the transfer cable under the ridge cap into the roof space, then replace the tiles.



2 Cut the ceiling hole

Secure the panel template to the ceiling with thumb tacks, checking that it's square with the wall. Mark the cut-out on the ceiling with a pencil, then cut along the lines using a jab saw. Pull the transfer cable through the hole in the ceiling.



3 Install the light panel

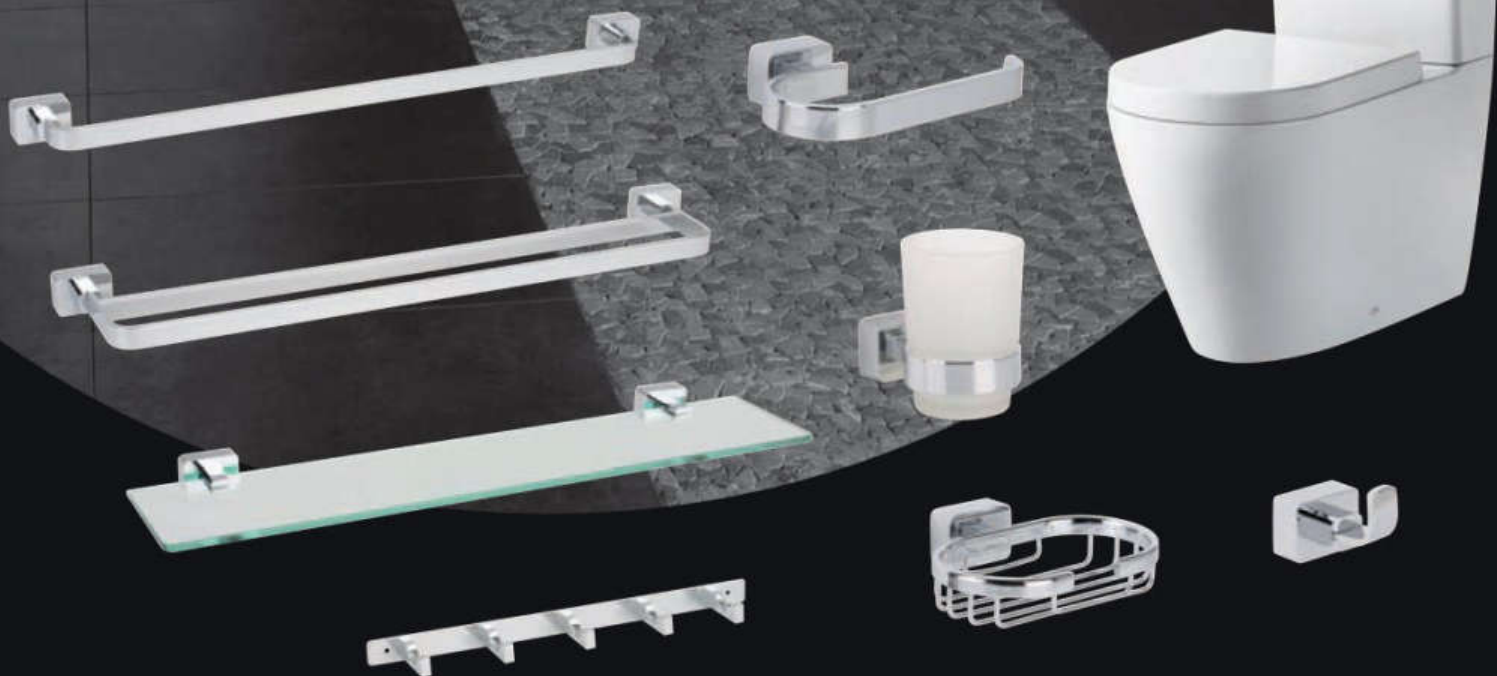
Plug the transfer cable into the control box, then plug the light panel into the other side and check the panel turns on. Attach the spring clips to the panel, pull them back and insert the panel into the hole, ensuring there is no insulation on the top of the panel. ➤



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Seal the gaps

When installing new bathtubs or vanities, there will always be a tiny gap between the edge of the fixture and the tiles. If water gets into this gap, it can cause damage.

Silicone should be used to seal all new fixtures to prevent water penetration from causing damage in a new bathroom.

Waterproofing must be done professionally, but you can seal DIY.

Sikasil NG White Silicone Sealant, about \$23 for 300ml. nzl.sika.com



A good bathtub can create a spa experience at home

1 2 3



1 Protect the surfaces

Apply strips of masking tape to either side of the gap, about 4mm apart. Cut the nozzle from the silicone at 45°, keeping the hole smaller than the gap for greater control.

TIP Cut the nozzle neatly, as jagged edges create furrows in the bead.



2 Lay an even bead

Start at one end and continue to the other. Pull the trigger slowly and steadily, pushing the caulking gun away from you and adjusting the rate to match variations in flow speed.

TIP Lift the gun and release the trigger once you reach the end of the gap.



3 Smooth the bead

Using a finger dipped in soapy water, run along the bead continuously from one end to the other, applying enough pressure to create a smooth, even surface. Remove the masking tape and excess silicone immediately, then allow to dry for 24 hours.

DIY TIP

To avoid cracks in the silicone, fill the bathtub three-quarters full before sealing, then leave for 24 hours while it dries.



Everloc Xpressions
Double Corner Basket,
about \$77. everloc.com.au



Everloc Solutions
Chrome Toilet Roll
Refill Holder, \$35.

Smart storage

A streamlined bathroom needs clever storage solutions, as there is nothing luxurious about clutter.

Suction and self-adhesive accessories allow removable storage on any smooth surface for all your essential items. 🌟

Here's another thing people often ask about Showerdome

Q

"Where does all the steam go?"

A

"That's an easy one. There isn't any!"

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BATHROOM MAKEOVER

A sharp eye for style and a bit of imagination are key to a quick and successful renovation

WORDS SITA SIMONS PICTURES DYLAN FALECKI

This old suburban house had seen an assortment of updates and DIY projects over the years. The toilet, as was often the way until the '50s, was located out in the backyard.

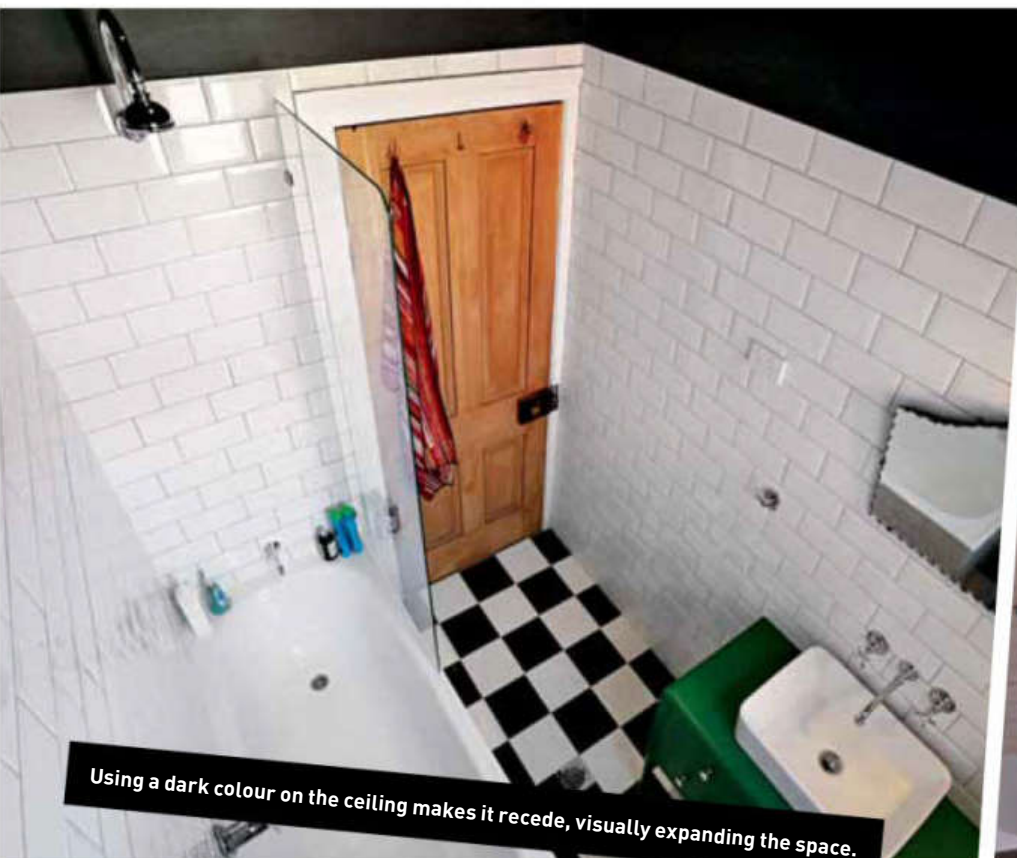
With a baby on the way, the owners had a three-month window to bring the toilet inside and create a functional, stylish space on a tiny footprint of 2 x 2m.

They called on the expertise of specialist builder Dylan Falecki. After a trip to Bunnings, everything needed for the renovation was loaded on the back of Dylan's ute.

With the addition of a few items the couple already owned, and one standout feature of an unusual black toilet, the renovation totalled \$25,000, including the cost of the tradesmen. The work was completed in a week.

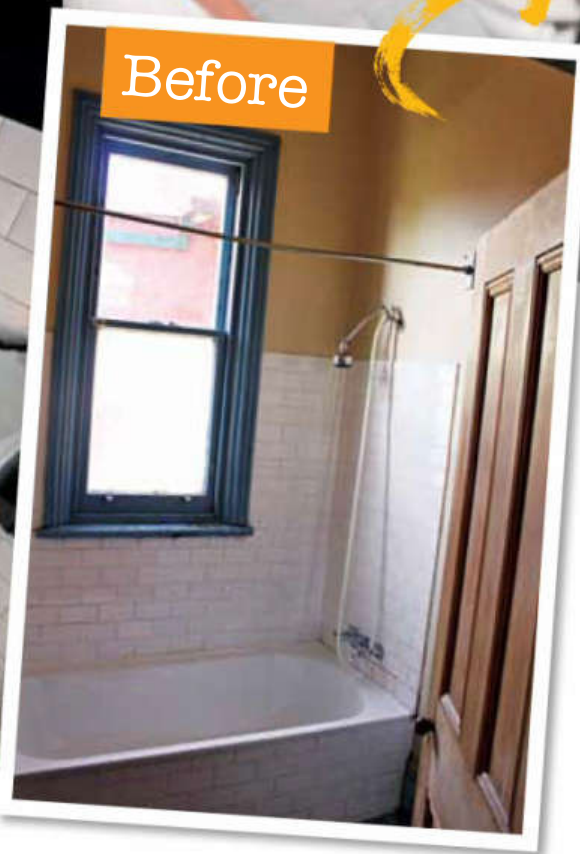
After

The striking black and white colour scheme flows from floor to ceiling.



Using a dark colour on the ceiling makes it recede, visually expanding the space.

Before





The wall light was an online find.

BUDGET TIP

Choose ceramic washers for the tapware, as they don't need replacing, which will save you money in the long term.



EXPERT SECRETS

Always fit a bath twice so it will never move. Sit it on the sand and cement bed and fill it with water overnight. Remove and refit it after applying silicone sheets to the mould.

Dylan Falecki, builder

Quirky charm

The creative couple were not in the market for a traditional bathroom.

Black and white floor tiles and the subway tiling on the walls is a nod to the era of the house, but the other elements are about personality and doing things a bit differently.

While the black and white colour scheme is striking, the brief was mostly about traditional texture.

'They didn't want any polished, refined finishes. The sanded and

waxed old oak door, matt floor, and the ceiling colour all reflect the feel of the period,' says Dylan.

There was a bit of remedial work that had to be dealt with first.

'The old waterproofing had failed and had to be redone. That led to water issues causing rot, and a number of the floor joists had to be replaced.

'Compressed fibro flooring was laid, then we built the bath hub, put in the bath, started tiling, and it went from go to whoa in about a week.' ➤



DESIGN TIP

Stick to a simple palette of three colours, using two primary and one complementary accent shade.

Cutting costs

The price of materials and fittings is often based on decorative details, and the cost of an acrylic bath can range from \$700 to more than \$2000.

'Decide what you need to spend money on by looking closely at these differences,' says Dylan.

'Tiles vary massively in price and usually the main difference is not the quality, but that the cheaper one can vary in size by half a millimetre.

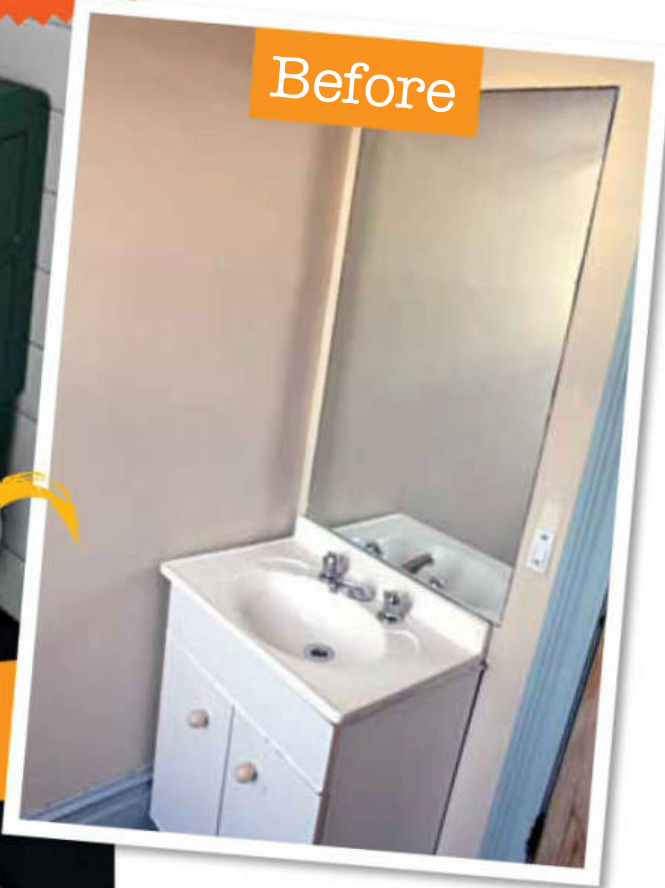
'A good tiler will allow for this, but it may take them a bit longer. Weigh up the cost of their time against the cost of the tiles, then decide,' he says.

Spend money on the items you touch the most often, such as tapware, handles and light switches.

A toilet is another item worth researching to get the right one. The black toilet was the couple's luxury splurge here.

The vanity is an upcycled dressing table, which saved money and added personality. 🍋

Before



After

The vintage scone and decorative mirror team perfectly with the upcycled cabinet.



The feature black toilet ties all the elements together.



The statement vanity was an old dressing table, sanded back, painted and sealed, with just a few cuts in the back to accommodate the plumbing

GET THE LOOK

CAPE JACKSON

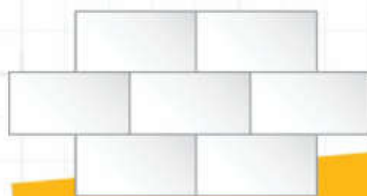
Dulux Aquanamel Deep Base Semi Gloss Enamel Paint, \$52 for 1L. dulux.co.nz



Stein Sterling Square Vessel Vitreous China Basin, \$115. stein.co.nz



Philips Wall Spot Chrome Round Aquafit Vanity Light, about \$32. philips.co.nz



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VANITY REVAMP

Painting the tiles and installing new fittings rejuvenated this bathroom

WORDS LEE DASHIELL MAIN PICTURE GEOFF BECK

Bathroom makeovers can be costly, particularly if you start ripping out floor and wall tiles.

Doing it this way will most likely mean hiring tilers and specialised tradies to complete the work, which will have a big effect on the cost.

This bathroom renovation had a tight DIY budget, so the floor and wall tiles were left intact and surface treatments were applied instead.

The overall look of this bathroom was tired and dated, but the surfaces were all in excellent condition, so it was inexpensive and easy to totally transform it in a weekend.

Before starting work, a plumber replaced the old sink with a modern square-edged basin and shiny taps.



Painting surfaces that are in good condition is a much more budget-friendly alternative than replacing them

White laminate paint was applied to the vanity doors, which were given sleek chrome handles to tie in with the modern new look of the room.

The tiles were then thoroughly cleaned, sanded and painted using a tile cleaner, primer and paint. ➤

DIY TIP

To get a smooth, professional finish and avoid brush marks, use a mini roller to apply paint to tiles.

After

Resurfacing and adding a modern basin have refreshed this room.



Before



PICTURE (BEFORE) LEE DASHIELL



WHAT YOU NEED



Paint Partner 10-piece Mini Roller Kit, \$10, from Bunnings.



White Knight White Tile Paint, \$54 for 1L. whiteknightpaints.co.nz



Long Life Tile Cleaner, \$9 for 1L, from Bunnings.

PAINT THE TILES



1 Clean the tiles

Scrub the tiles and grout with a mix of one part bleach to 10 parts water to remove mould, then leave to dry. Use tile cleaner, then leave for 30 seconds to give the cleaner time to work on the surface of the tiles. Wipe off the cleaner with a wet sponge to remove soap scum and oil.



2 Sand the tiles

Give the tiles a light sand all over using 240 grit wet/dry abrasive paper and a sanding block to create a rough matt surface. This will help the paint adhere better to the tiles. Wash and rinse off the tiles using a wet sponge and clean water, then leave to dry completely.



3 Mask the edges

Use painter's tape to mask off the walls at the floor and ceiling and any other edges. Press firmly on the edge of the tape along the area that is to be painted to give a clean finish. Fill any cracks with grout or gap filler and leave to dry. Position drop sheets on the floor to avoid paint splashes.



4 Apply the primer

Stir the primer well, then pour into a roller tray. Paint small areas of the tiles at a time, using a microfibre mini roller and a brush to cut in the edges and around tricky areas such as taps. Roll on the primer in a zigzag pattern, then smooth out, working from the top to the base. Allow to dry.



5 Paint the first coat

Lightly sand the tiles with 240 grit paper and wipe down. Apply the first coat with the roller, cutting in with a brush. Paint a small area at a time in a zigzag pattern, then roll smooth. When the paint is spread and only a little is left on the roller, go over the area in one direction from top to base.



6 Finish the painting

Store the brush and roller in water until the first coat of paint is dry, then squeeze out the water. Lightly sand the tiles with 600 grit paper, then wipe off the dust. Apply the top coat using the same technique as for the first coat. Allow to dry for a day, then wait a week until fully cured. 🍷



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SAVE ON YOUR RENO

Plan ahead when replacing your bathroom so you can stick to an affordable budget

WORDS ASHLEIGH PERRIOTT

As one of the busiest rooms in the home, the bathroom can also be the most expensive when it comes to renovating.

Replacing a bathroom can cost an average of about \$16,000, so knowing what you can DIY and when you need to call a tradie is important.

It means you can build your dream bathroom without overspending. ➤

DESIGN TIP

Think about future lifestyle changes, such as having children, to avoid remodelling again in a few years.

HEY, BIG SPENDER

To keep within budget, create a complete plan for the makeover, including quotes from the pros, before beginning construction.

Decide which big-ticket items you can afford to splash out on and areas where you can compromise.

Major expenses can include professional tiling, relocating the plumbing and choosing luxury fixtures like a freestanding tub.

Select the best products you can afford so your new bathroom will stand the test of time.

Hire a professional

No matter how handy you are, it's inevitable that you'll need to call in a tradie for certain elements of bathroom renovation because of regulations set by the Building Code and New Zealand Standards.

Waterproofing is vital to prevent structural damage and damp, with government standards requiring a pro to complete the job in your home.

Most electrical jobs must be done by a licensed electrician, who will do the wiring, as well as installing exhaust fans, heaters and power outlets.

For plumbing work, you'll need a plumber to disconnect and reconnect the pipes, as well as waste outlets.

Check out free services like Tradebox (tradebox.co.nz) to find a suitable tradesman in your area for the job.



If you live in a strata property, make sure you have approval before starting work on your renovation



Get a tradie to waterproof your bathroom.



Let an electrician handle any wiring work.



A plumber will disconnect and reconnect pipes.

PICTURES THINKSTOCK

BUDGET CHEAT SHEET

Can't afford a full reno but sick of staring at your old bathroom?

Just changing a few elements can give it a fast facelift without cleaning out your bank account.

Installing a new shower screen and skylight, painting tiles, and resurfacing the bath or basin will have a huge impact on the look of the room. 🍷



Cemix Tile & Slate Sealer, \$32 for 1L. cemix.co.nz



VINTAGE DENIM

British Paints Clean & Protect Low Sheen Interior Paint, \$92 for 4L. britishpaints.co.nz



Foreno WELS 3 Star 7.5L/min Arcjet 5 Function Slide Shower, \$189. foreno.co.nz



Acol 300mm Round EzyLite Skylight Kit, about \$126, from Bunnings.



Stein Emilio Tile Shower with Ezy-Lay Tile Base, \$1498 for return, tray and door. stein.co.nz

Barelli Bella 600mm Single Towel Rail, \$20, from Bunnings.



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CREATE YOUR OWN RETREAT

Design a resort-style bathroom sanctuary using large-format tiles and a smart, modern layout

WORDS DANIEL BUTKOVICH



An opulent bathroom sanctuary is easy to create by designing the entire space as a wet room.

The transition to the shower and bath area is seamless in a wet room. This approach to bathroom design utilises the floorplan well, allowing for high-end inclusions like dual showers and a tub. ➤

A symmetrical double shower with a bathtub centrepiece oozes luxury.



Install patterned tiles in the bathroom to get the look of stone without the high price tag

DESIGN TIP

When laying large-format tiles, use a grout of the same colour to maximise the visual impact of the tile design.



Add instant elegance

Large-format stone-look tiles give the feel of a luxury hotel, and using them on the floor then taking them up the walls makes a room seem bigger.

A simple ledge creates a defined zone for the bath without affecting the flow of the room. Frameless glass shower screens are almost invisible and let in plenty of natural light.

A bathroom haven needs plenty of unobtrusive storage to keep it streamlined and a wall-mounted vanity creates the illusion of space.

For the ultimate in bathroom indulgence, install a combination rain shower and handheld mixer, and add an elegant freestanding tub to create a bathroom that you'll never want to leave. ✨





Looks that last

HardieGlaze Lining is a strong and easy to clean coated interior lining. Ideal for use on bathroom walls, in showers and laundries, it works beautifully with modern tapware and fittings.



10 DAY RENO

Easy DIY revamps costing just \$12,500 made this 1980s house ready to rent

PROJECTS LEE DASHIELL PICTURES GEOFF BECK

The state of the economy of a particular decade is often reflected in the interior design.

This house summed up what was hot in the '80s, featuring thick curtains with gold tasselled tie-backs, pelmets, sculptured carpet, vertical blinds and peach-coloured tones throughout. But today, this is not the look people want.

Handyman managing editor Lee Dashiell bought this house as a rental investment property, then had to decide what changes could be

LEE'S PLAN

- ✦ **REMOVE** curtains, pelmets, tasselled tie backs, vertical blinds, sheer lace curtains, oval sinks, plastic-tank toilets, plastic taps, decorative ceiling lights and door handles.
- ✦ **INSTALL** modern taps, basins, toilets, ceiling lights, door and cabinet handles, and blinds.
- ✦ **PAINT** all the walls, ceilings, architraves, skirting boards, bathroom, laundry and kitchen tiles, and kitchen cabinets.



Front door refresh

Many renters, and buyers, drive by a property to check it out before making an appointment with the agent, so first impressions really count.

The door, surround and screen were painted gloss black to unify the entrance and a new stainless steel handle, doormat and plants complete the look.

After

The entrance is much more inviting with the door, frame and screen painted black.

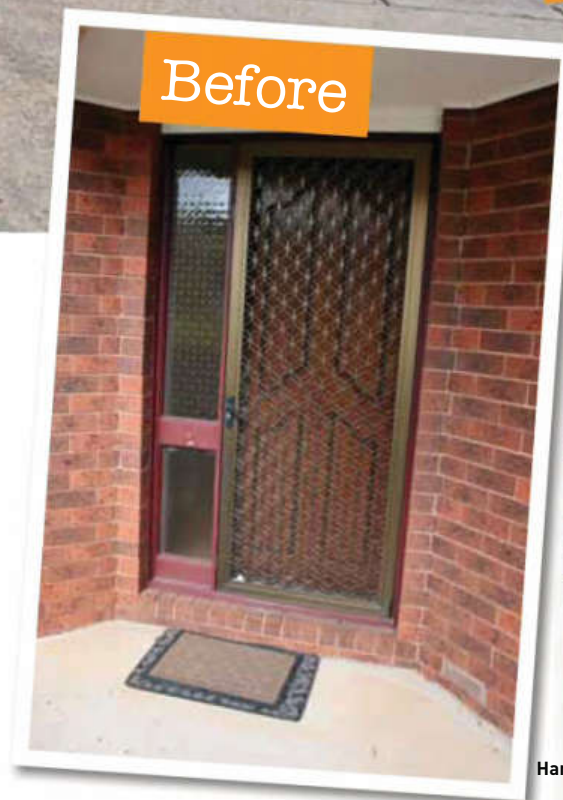
Before

made on a very tight budget to achieve the maximum rental return.

There were obvious, inexpensive facelifts such as painting, changing light fittings, replacing taps and changing window treatments.

The initial plan included replacing the carpet with laminate flooring, adding halogen lights and installing French doors leading out to a new deck.

But after consulting with a real estate agent, it was decided to keep things as streamlined as possible. ➤



BUDGET TIP

If the kitchen cabinets and benches are in good shape, resurface don't replace for a fresh look without spending big.

After

Painting the walls, window frames, tiles and cabinets transformed the kitchen.



Kitchen update

The cabinets and tiles were resurfaced using laminate and tile paint, which instantly made them appear more modern.

Replacing the old plastic cabinet handles with modern chrome versions, removing the dated pelmet and painting the window frames white brightened up the whole room.

Ask the experts

To check if he was on the right track, Lee asked the real estate agent to visit the house and scope out the plans.

The advice was not to go ahead with the bigger renovations, as the rental yield wouldn't increase with the additional spend.

When it comes to your own home, you tend to splurge on things that are important to you like a new kitchen or a swimming pool. But these elements may not be the most savvy additions when renovating to rent.

Also consider the tax implications on where and when you spend. Talk to your accountant about ways to reap the best tax benefits in your situation.

Before



PICTURE (BEFORE) LEE DASHIELL

Before

Expert advice

Lee took part in Cherie Barber's Renovating for Profit workshop, where she showed the best ways to make the maximum impact on a tight budget.

She advises attendees to look at the renovation as a business, watch the budget and keep personal taste out of it.

Cherie also demonstrates how to make a property appealing to as many people as possible by keeping surface colours neutral, fittings modern and creating as much light as possible.

Lee used many of her strategies when renovating this property. ➤

After

With the mismatching soft furnishings removed, the room is flooded with light.



Dining room revamp

All four window treatments in this room, including lace curtains, a pelmet, vertical blinds and drapes, had to go.

Removing these opened up the house to the view out the back and let in more light.

GET THE LOOK

Schlage Regent Boston Satin Chrome Passage Set, about \$60. schlage.co.nz

Cafe Lighting 40cm Satin Astra Ceiling Oyster Light, \$30, from Bunnings.

Barelli Milano 600mm Double Towel Rail, \$89, from Bunnings.

Sylvan 96mm Hendon Brushed Stainless Steel Square Handle, \$19. sylvan.co.nz



PPG Endure Low Sheen Interior Walls, \$80 for 4L. ppgpaints.co.nz



White Knight White Laminate Paint, \$52 for 1L. whiteknightpaints.co.nz

When renovating to rent, bear in mind that splurging on expensive items may not increase the rental yield

DIY TIP

Take photos of each room before leasing your property so you have a record of its original condition.

After

Adding a garden bed outside provides a pleasant outlook.



Living room overhaul

The heavy curtains were removed and the timber skirtings and architraves painted white to give a clean, fresh look.

Painting the walls the same colour throughout has given the house an overall consistency.

Why use an agent?

You may consider agent's fees costly and think you should DIY to save money. But while you could find a tenant easily enough, you might not be prepared if problems arise.

Agents have the knowledge of tenancy and property legislation and the experience to sort out any issues. They deal with repairs, chase overdue rent and arrange inspections to ensure the property is being cared for.

They are also good negotiators and put your best interests first, plus their fees are also tax deductible.

But even if you use an agent, take out landlord insurance for protection from any unforeseen circumstances that may arise and incur costs. ➤

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DESIGN TIP

Colours date fast, so go for bright white in bathrooms to create a space that looks clean, fresh and modern.



Bathroom makeover

The dated decorative wall tiles were smooth, so they were easy to coat with tile paint.

While the benchtops and floor tiles would have looked better if replaced, the extra cost would not have been justified.

Replacing the sinks and taps with modern designs has improved and rejuvenated the room. 🛠️

After

Resurfacing the tiles and adding new taps brings the bathroom up to date.

Before

RENOVATION COSTS

Sinks, toilets and taps	\$1254
Door handles	\$1213
Curtains and blinds	\$278
Plants	\$325
Laminate and tile paint	\$542
Painter	\$6246
Plumber	\$760
Electrician	\$1550
Handyman	\$275
TOTAL	\$12,443

For a guide to painting tiles, turn to p28.

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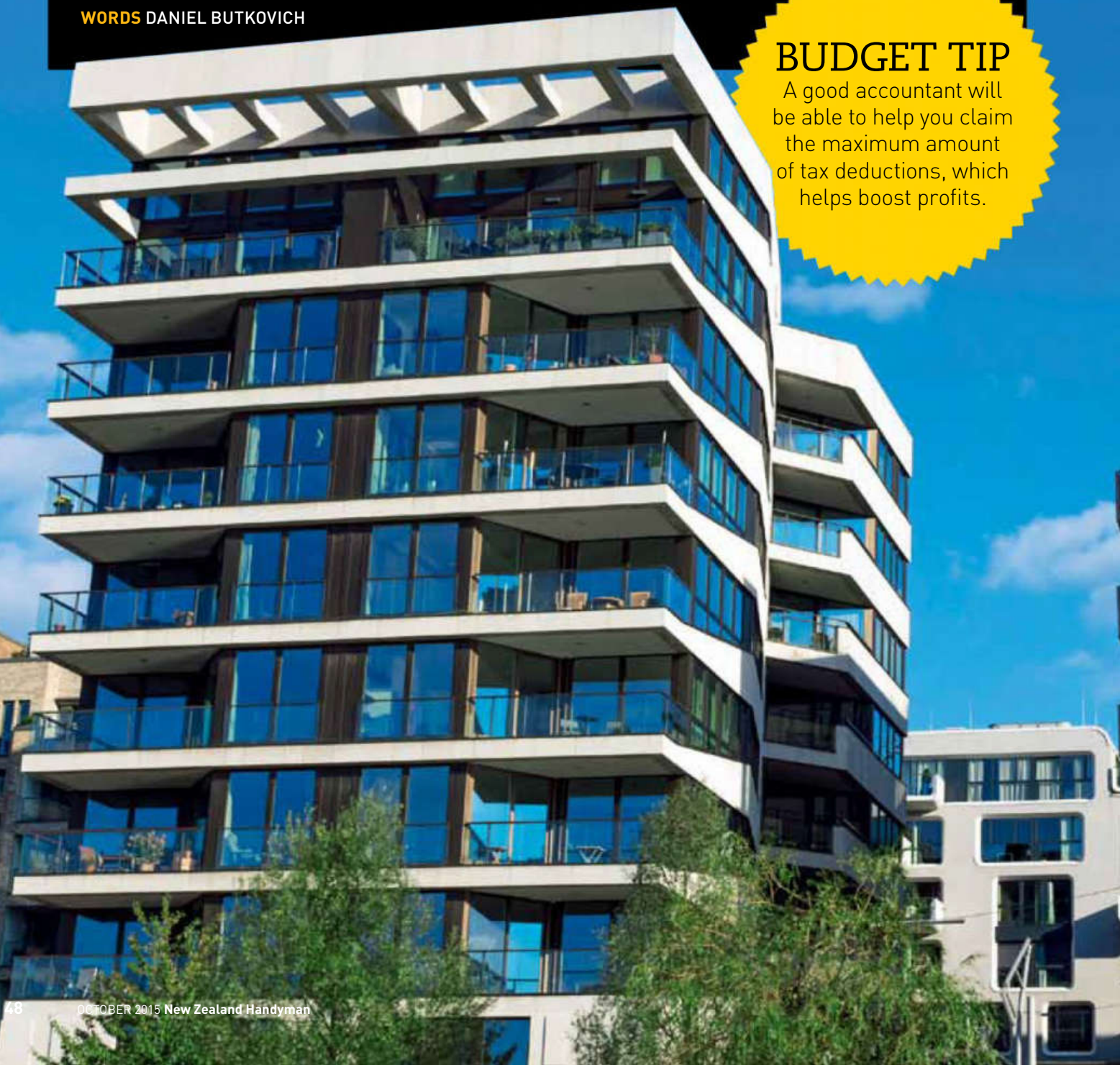
5 INVESTMENT NIGHTMARES

Maximise your profit and minimise your risk by avoiding these common property mistakes

WORDS DANIEL BUTKOVICH

BUDGET TIP

A good accountant will be able to help you claim the maximum amount of tax deductions, which helps boost profits.



Property investment is arguably the number one way New Zealanders are building their wealth.

These days almost 500,000 Kiwi families are paying rent for their accommodation and with low returns on savings in the bank, the attraction for investors to buy property is obvious.

But owning property can be risky, and without proper planning, it's easy to run into trouble. Many investors lose thousands when they are forced to sell their properties after bad decisions.

From renovation disasters to legal battles, property advisor Zaki Ameer has seen it all and explains how you can avoid an investment nightmare.



Off-the-plan dramas

It's easy to get excited about a brand-new property but, sometimes, buying a dwelling that hasn't been built yet can cause problems.

'This type of investment may seem enticing at first, but there is no guarantee of the quality or the final value,' says Zaki.

Also, many properties can be overvalued, meaning the home could be worth a lot less than the purchase price once it has been built.

SOLUTION Buy an existing dwelling that you can inspect in person before committing to the purchase.



Nasty exit fees

With historically low interest rates, fixed rate bank loans are appealing to more investors than ever. The catch is the fees that are charged if you need to make an early exit.

'A friend of mine went through a traumatic divorce and was forced to sell his investment property during the fixed rate period and paid thousands of dollars in exit fees,' says Zaki.

SOLUTION Keep careful records of the properties purchased so you are aware of any penalties that may apply for breaking fixed rate agreements. ➤



Smart investment decisions can result in fantastic profits, but bad ones can be costly





3 Dodgy builders

Renovating is a great way to add value, but it can cause financial pain if corners are cut or disreputable builders are used.

Poor workmanship, accidents and the resulting legal fees can completely erode any potential profits.

'I've seen appalling renovations by builders where roofs have leaked and caved in soon after completion, costing the owners \$250,000 in legal fees and repairs,' say Zaki.

SOLUTION Check builders' credentials and inspect their recent work before commissioning them for your reno.



4 Terrible tenants

Good tenants that pay rent on time and keep the property in good order are a godsend, but bad tenants are unfortunately too common.

Reliable renters can suddenly turn into property-wrecking nightmares, as one of Zaki's clients found out.

'They deserted the house in the middle of the night, leaving it in a terrible condition and, not having landlord insurance, she had to fork out \$20,000 to pay for repairs.'

SOLUTION Always invest in landlord insurance.

5 No safety net

Losing your job or being unable to work due to injury or illness can cause major problems when it comes to repayments, and applying for loan extensions may cost thousands of dollars in fees.

To avoid running into trouble, put aside money to use as a safety net in case the unthinkable happens.

'It's better to have this cash for emergencies than to use it to pay extra loan repayments,' says Zaki.

SOLUTION Set aside three months of repayments per property. 💰



EXPERT ADVICE

If you find yourself in a difficult situation, selling your property early should only be the last resort.

Zaki Ameer,
property advisor

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With the long Winter finally at an end, it's time to refresh your home and garden for the warmer months. Whether you're after a new style to add to your home or garden, or high powered tools to tackle those D.I.Y. projects, Bunnings has everything you need to get those jobs done.



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Your everyday favourite Click pedestal fan now comes with a remote and 7.5 hour timer. Fixed or oscillating functions, 3 speed settings and adjustable height. **\$34.98.**



FUNKY FANS

These retro style colour desk fans from Mistral will make summer more interesting. Available in silver, orange or blue. **\$49.98.**



KEEP THOSE TOWELS COSY

Ideal for all year use, the stylish stainless steel mirror finish ladder towel rail from Arlec comes in either round or square bar options. Concealed or exposed wiring wall brackets are included with an innovative universal wiring system. 5 Bar (Round) **\$149.** 8 bar (Square) **\$249.** Towels not included.



MODERN OVEN STYLE

The Bellini Electric 8 Function Oven comes in black to add a modern style to your kitchen. Features 8 functions, a 60L capacity, bottom heating with fan assist, full grill and half grill. **\$448.98.**



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CLEAN UP YOUR GARDEN

The 1800W Ryobi Lawn Mower will power through those winter weeds. With a 50L catcher, 40cm cutting path and 20-70mm cutting heights, this mulching capable mower is the perfect tool to tidy your lawn. Ideal for small lawns under 250m². **\$299.**



GET GARDENING

The Hart 1.5lb Pointed Hoe Mottock is the perfect gardening tool. Features a pointed head perfect for furrowing and an integrated fin for easy tool removal. Heat treated cutting edges and a fibreglass handle means this tool will last you many seasons. **\$39.95.**



FINISHING TOUCHES

The Precinct Lite Range of pots and bird baths will add a contemporary look to your garden. A strong and lightweight construction make these accessories ideal for courtyards or balconies. Comes in a modern terrazzo finish in either black or white. Bird bath **\$89.95.** Pots from **\$17.97.**

DRIVING PRECISION

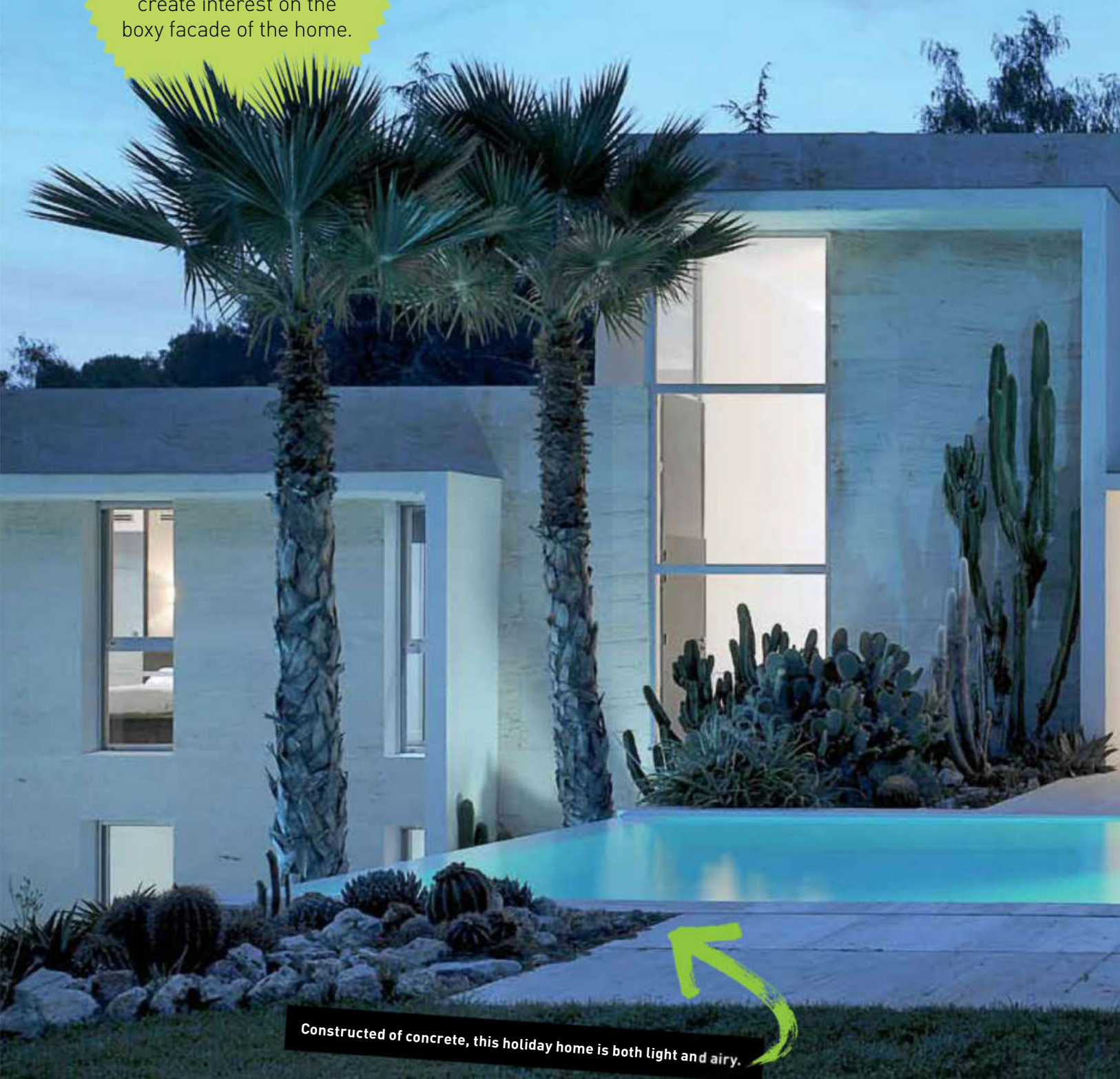
Supercharge your tool kit with the new Ryobi ONE+ Brushless Drill Driver Kit with E-Torque Control. New brushless motors allow up to 40% more runtime, 20% more power and a longer motor life compared to standard brushed 18V motors. This kit includes brushless drill driver, 1 x 5.0Ah & 1 x 2.5Ah Lithium+ batteries, dual chemistry charger and convenient carry bag. **\$329.**



SECURITY AND STYLE IN ONE Lytworx Solar Security Sensor Light has a motion activated LED security light and is IP44 outdoor rated. Solar powered means no electrician is needed to install these. **\$34.98.**

DESIGN TIP

The deep reveals of the windows and doors create interest on the boxy facade of the home.



Constructed of concrete, this holiday home is both light and airy.

ALL SQUARE

This dream holiday house blends modernity and home comforts in a grand architectural vision

WORDS SITA SIMONS


Set into a wooded hillside, it was a case of pushing the limits when it came to designing this seaside villa. The luxury holiday home cleverly combines elements of modernism with residential warmth.

In high season, when the crowds arrive, it is the ideal private escape for

a large family, with each of the nine bedrooms offering a private ensuite and terrace overlooking the ocean.

The whitewashed concrete and natural limestone exterior of the house takes on cubic forms, with a parapet roof lending to the clean lines and angular symmetry. ➤





The palette inside and out is neutral and colour is found in the oversized artworks, the shimmering blue of the pool and the lush greenery.

★
The wet edge pool on this side of the house flows out towards the ocean, adding to the resort-style feel

DESIGN TIP

For an open feel and to let in light, try the architect's trick of creating shadow lines instead of using cornices.

The furnishings are chosen to reflect the contours of the home but allow for the practical need of providing enough seating.

On the level

There are two swimming pools, one on either side of the living area, and walls of sliding glass doors open the home to the outdoors with no change in floor level, linking the spaces.

'Every detail, angle and element has been carefully thought through and designed, and this extends to the interiors,' says Cameron Frazer, of the home's design company.

'Bringing it all together with furnishings while still personalising to suit tastes and preferences is a delicate balance that needs to be done with a subtle hand to work well.' ➤

Natural materials enhance the connection between the exterior and interior.

DESIGN TIP

To create a plinth to display artwork and break up the expanse of wall, the sliding window recesses have been built as a feature.

An indoor minimalist garden bed lights up at night.

Planting up the stair void blurs the boundaries.

To one side of this spacious property lies the ocean and to the other there are luscious private gardens.

The oversized windows bring in a wall of vibrant green, framing the natural views to provide pleasure and tranquillity in the home.

While the windows are a strong feature, the walls above head height are also used to maximum effect.

'Dramatic wall panels painted flat white serve as a canvas for the owners' art collection,' says Cameron.

'But it would work just as well if used to display children's artwork or just left blank to allow the play of light as the sun moves across the sky.'

The suspended staircase is an element that manages to both stand out and disappear into the space.

The suspended staircase demonstrates how modern materials can be used to create a structure that appears to be floating

'This staircase is a classic exercise in form and function combining to create a striking design feature in the living area,' says Cameron.

'It's a complex and self-supporting design that acts like a beam, and the stringer is incorporated into the stair.'

Although it is made of concrete reinforced with steel, it still looks light and simple.' ➤



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Treat small ensuites to luxurious touches with feature tiles and interesting sinks.



Gold mosaic tiles pop against the large-format black tiles.



DESIGN TIP

When buying stone tiles for a bathroom floor, they should be selected for non-slip characteristics when wet for safety.

Black beauties

There's been a move away from all-white bathrooms, and black is having its moment.

If the room has lots of natural light, black can be warm and luxurious, actually opening up small spaces rather than closing them in.

'The use of dark stone and dark tones in the bathrooms serves to create a sense of intimacy and enclosure, and also sets these spaces apart from the stark minimalism of the otherwise all-white interiors,' says Cameron.

Ensuites get the same treatment, with points of difference such as the gold mosaic tiles on the walls. 🌟



Each of the bedrooms has a private ensuite and, while they are all different, black is a unifying theme



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KITCHEN TRENDS

Check out what looks are hot right now from splashbacks to shelving



Patterned tiling

Splashbacks that feature tiles laid in patterns have made a comeback, with herringbone being the latest trend.

Subway and squared tiles are also being widely used with black grout for a stylish contrast against traditional white cabinetry.



Loft look

Industrial lighting and exposed beams are very popular when it comes to kitchen themes today.



Woodgrain timbers

Natural, textured and woodgrain finishes feature in many modern designer kitchens, bringing a warm aesthetic to them.

These timber-like finishes and timber benchtops add a natural earthy feel to any kitchen.

Black and white appliances

While stainless steel will always be a favourite choice, black and white appliances can give your kitchen that extra bit of elegance and modern flair. They work best in kitchens with a black and white or neutral colour scheme.



Two-tone effect


This look adds contrast and character to a space, especially when polar opposite shades or textures are used.

Dark-coloured cabinets teamed with gloss white and contrasting bamboo benchtops make a real statement.

Island kitchen

This modern look ties the kitchen in with the living room, making the space more usable and inviting.



 An open-plan kitchen gives the illusion of more space and increases air flow and natural light

Exposed shelves

These are commonly used in all types of kitchen designs and showcase what was once hidden away in wall cabinets.

They can be customised to suit the length and depth of your space, or added on to your island breakfast bar.

You can also create your own from any benchtop offcuts you may have.



Copper and gold accents

These two metallics add an element of industrial elegance to your kitchen. They complement neutral shades and really shine when they're incorporated with vibrant colours or timber textures.

DINING ROOM REDESIGN

An eight-piece timber setting gets a sophisticated update for a fraction of the cost of buying a new one

WORDS AND PICTURES MELISSA DARR

DIY blogger Melissa Darr was keen to make over her dining room. But when she looked at the cost of a new setting in the French provincial style she loves, she decided to update her existing one instead.

'The price tag was about \$2500 for an eight-seater dining setting like ours. I didn't want to pay that much, so I decided to paint the one we had.'

Melissa had the idea to paint the table legs and chair backs and legs white and leave the stained timber top and seats as they were.

She added a chalkboard, clock and ornate chandelier to complete the look.

PREP AND PAINT

Melissa gave the table legs and frame a quick sand, then primed and painted them, finishing in an afternoon.

Pleased with how the table looked, Melissa was eager to get on with the chairs. But they turned out to be an entirely different matter.

'I had to sand, undercoat and paint each chair twice, and there were lots of nooks and crannies to get into,' she says.

'I found out halfway through that a paintbrush wasn't the best thing to use on the chairs, as it left brush marks. A small roller gave a more even finish.'

Once all the chairs were painted, the setting was exactly as she'd imagined.

'I am really happy with the overall look of the dining setting and how it has completely changed the feel of the whole room,' says Melissa.

Before



DESIGN TIP

Add a colourful centrepiece to a large dining table, such as this arrangement of pink and yellow roses.



Melissa



EXPERT SECRETS

Avoid painting in the heat of the day as the paint will dry too quickly, leaving obvious brush marks.

A decorative five-light pendant complements the setting.

After

A contrasting white and timber finish transforms the style of the room.

Get more DIY from Melissa
Follow her blog thewhimsicalwife.com

DESIGN HACKS

Here's how to decorate one cabinet three ways to get style on a budget

WORDS ARTEMIS GOUROS PROJECTS GEMA BENEITEZ PICTURES SUE FERRIS

A table or cabinet near the front door is a very useful item of furniture, adding a decorative element and providing much-needed storage for keys, mail, mobiles and more.

But while there are homes that have a hallway, others open directly onto a living space, so there is no one-size-fits-all solution when it comes to entry furniture.

Finding a piece to fit your space isn't hard if you look for something in the right size and customise it to suit your interior decorating style.

Flatpack furniture is ideal for this purpose, and kitchen cabinets or storage pieces are very adaptable.

This white melamine bedside table was painted and given new legs for three different designer treatments.

For the first look, the door was covered in easy-to-use vinyl wallpaper in a geometric pattern and a square metal handle added for a retro effect.

TIP Always use a primer for laminated surfaces before painting melamine. ➤

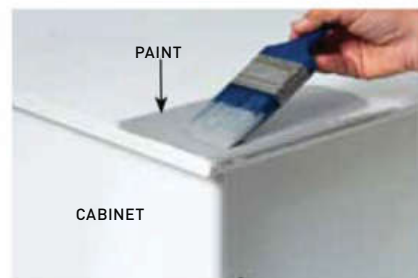


EXPERT SECRETS

Giving new flatpack furniture a makeover is much faster than revamping a vintage piece, as there's no stripping, sanding or repair work involved.

Choose a small design when going geometric so the pattern is completed or repeated enough to be visually understood

1 2 3



1 Paint the cabinet

Remove the door handle, then apply primer to the cabinet using a brush and small roller. Apply two coats of low sheen acrylic paint, letting it dry and sanding lightly in between coats. Paint four timber furniture legs in the same colour as the cabinet.



2 Cover the door

Measure the cabinet door and transfer the measurements to the back of a piece of wallpaper. Cut out the wallpaper using scissors or a utility knife, then apply spray adhesive on the back and attach it to the door. Smooth any air bubbles by hand.



3 Attach the legs

Mark and pre-drill the cabinet door for the new handle. Turn the cabinet upside down and mark the furniture leg locations, pre-drilling holes. Install the legs on the base, turn the cabinet right side up and attach the door handle using the supplied screws.

RETRO LOOK

DIY TIP

Remove the door to make it easier to attach the wallpaper to the front. Rehang it after the paint has dried on the cabinet.



A simple geometric pattern in blue, grey and yellow gives a retro look a modern hook.

INDUSTRIAL INFLUENCE



A hot trend in interior decorating, industrial furniture tends to come with a designer price tag.

But if you DIY, you can get the look for less using metal piping from the hardware store.

This cabinet base is made from 20mm copper pipe, \$16 for 1.5m, while the door handle is a copper and brass basin tee, \$6.

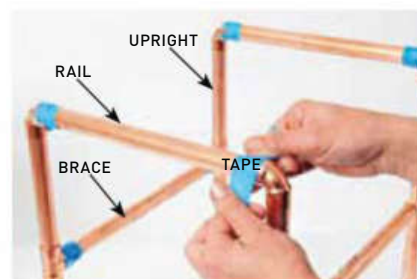
The pipes are slotted into elbow and tee joiners to make the cabinet base, with liquid sealant used at every joint. ➤

1 2 3



1 Paint the cabinet

Apply primer and then two coats of low sheen acrylic using a brush and small roller, sanding lightly in between coats. Cut 20mm copper piping to length for the base using a pipe cutter. Cut four 300mm uprights, four 200mm rails and two 250mm braces.



2 Join the pipes

Slide a tee fitting onto each upright to the midpoint, attach elbows to the ends and insert the rails to make two leg frames. Insert the braces in the tee fittings to join the leg frames. Apply liquid sealant to each pipe end as you go, taping the assembly until dry.



3 Attach the base

Attach end caps to the basin tee for the door handle. Cut dowel to fit in the basin tee and drill a pilot hole, securing the handle from inside the door with a screw. Turn the cabinet upside down and secure the base frame using saddle clips and screws.

DESIGN TIP

Shiny copper and matt black are a great variation on the usual raw timber and dull steel of the industrial look.



To build a metal cabinet base without welding, use DIY-friendly copper piping.

VINTAGE STYLE



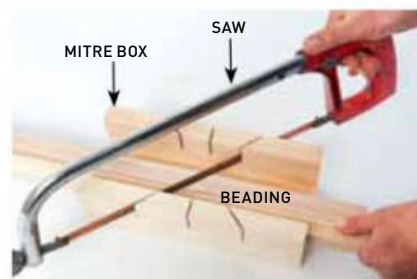
Gold details and soft tones are essential to a vintage scheme.

1 2 3



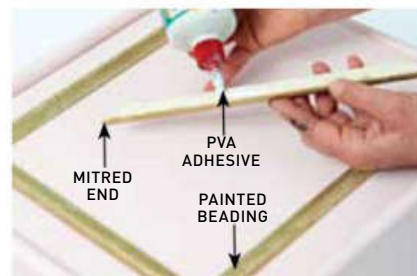
1 Paint the cabinet

Apply primer and then two coats of low sheen acrylic paint to the cabinet using a brush and small roller, letting it dry and sanding lightly in between coats. Paint four timber furniture legs in the same colour as the cabinet and use a small brush to add gold detail.



2 Prepare the beading

Measure the cabinet door to calculate the lengths of timber beading needed for a panel box. Cut the beading to length with mitred ends using a mitre box and saw. Apply primer and two coats of gold acrylic paint to the beading using a brush, leave to dry.



3 Finish the cabinet

Turn the cabinet upside down and mark the furniture leg locations, pre-drilling holes. Install the legs on the base, then lay the cabinet face up. Position the beading to mark the door, then apply PVA adhesive to the back of each length and attach to the door.

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BUDGET TIP

Vintage pieces in good nick are expensive, so copy the style on budget pieces for furniture that doesn't wobble or stick.



When it comes to vintage furniture most of us think of shapely silhouettes, soft tones and ornate embellishments.

To create a pared-back version of this classic style, timber beading in a decorative profile was used to give the illusion of a panel on the cabinet door.

Paint the beading gold and use the same colour on the coves of tapered colonial-style timber legs to mimic the look of gilt-edged furniture.

For the cabinet, keep to a soft colour in a low sheen not a gloss finish. Instead of a door handle, a push-to-open latch was installed. ✨



Wallpaper is the ideal backdrop for vintage pieces, and modern paste-the-wall products are affordable, quick to DIY and easy to remove

SHOWCASE SHELVING

Turn a blank wall into a visual feast with built-in floor-to-ceiling shelves

WORDS FRANK GARDNER

There aren't many DIY projects that will give you as much bang for your buck as this plasterboard shelving.

It's just a frame made from 140 x 35mm timber covered with 10mm plasterboard. You can build shelving like ours, or design it to fit the space you have available.

For this project, the shelving is 3600mm wide and 2700mm high, and the 450mm deep shelves are designed to accommodate home entertainment equipment, including a central recess for a 150cm (60") TV.

This arrangement also looks great even if your ceilings are only 2400mm high. And you don't have to build

your shelves wall to wall. You can leave one or both ends exposed and finish them with plasterboard.

We used graph paper to sketch out the design, but you can just map it directly onto the wall.

First add about 125mm to the width and height of the TV, then centre this rectangle on the wall.

When happy with the dimensions of the TV recess, mark the vertical and horizontal frame locations and flick chalklines to see how it will look.

We left a 10mm gap between the frame and the floor, walls and ceiling to allow the frames to be pre-built and positioned without having to fit the shelving exactly to the room. ➤

DIY TIP

Avoid mess and damage by building the parts in your garage or backyard, then assembling them indoors when ready.

FRAME IT

These shelves are assembled using simple box frames. Made from rails and crosspieces, the butt joints are secured with nails.

Set up a stop on a mitresaw to cut the crosspieces, then cut the rails to make the frames using a mitresaw or circular saw.

Build a full-length base and top, four stud frames, and the centre and side shelves.

The crosspieces are used in the frames as braces and noggins.

They are also used to make the stud boxes at each shelf location, to provide backing for the plasterboard on both sides.

Before the plasterboard is secured to the framing, employ an electrician to install the cabling for power, lights and TV

FRANK'S PICKS



Ryobi 1200W Compound Mitresaw, \$169. ryobi.co.nz



Arlec Brushed Chrome LED 5W Downlight, \$13. arlec.com.au

Materials

Pine	\$752
Plasterboard	\$94
Corner head	\$39
Galvanised nails	\$20
Timber screws	\$14
Plasterboard screws	\$15
Plasterboard nails	\$12
Top coat	\$35
Base Coat 45	\$86
48mm paper tape	\$8
TOTAL	\$1075

TOOLS

CIRCULAR SAW,
MITRESAW, DRILL

4
DAYS

\$1075
COST



The shelves offer space to house vital large items like a TV, as well as ornamental pieces.

BUILD THE SHELVES



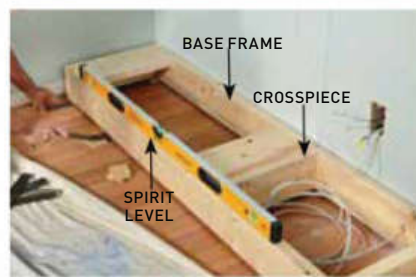
1 Set out the framing

Transfer the frame layout to the wall, snapping chalklines for the vertical and horizontal frames. Check the lines are level and plumb with a 10mm gap all around the frame to make it possible to fit it in the space.



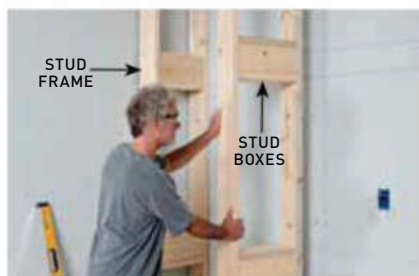
2 Build the frames

Make the top, base, stud and shelf frames, securing with nails. On the top and base frames, mark the stud frame locations on the rails, then attach the top and base crosspieces. Mark the shelf locations on the stud sides.



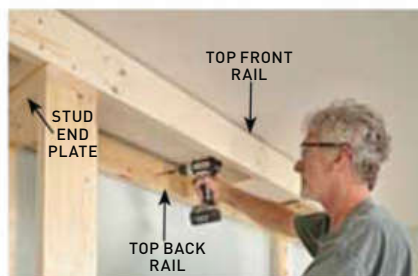
3 Level the base frame

Position the base frame on 10mm scraps of plywood at each corner and under each crosspiece. Use a spirit level to level the base frame from side to side and from front to back, then secure to the wall using screws.



4 Set the stud frames

Position the outer stud frames, securing to the base frame with screws. Check for plumb, then drill two clearance holes through the back studs, securing to the wall with toggle bolts or screws. Repeat with the remaining stud frames.



5 Secure the top frame

Position the top frame on the stud frames, checking the centre and side shelves fit. Make any adjustments, then secure the stud end plates to the top frame with screws. Secure the back rail of the top frame to the wall.



6 Add the shelves

Cut plywood to use as spacers for installing the shelves. Starting with the centre shelves, rest each one on the spacers and secure the shelf ends to the stud boxes with screws, lining them up precisely. Secure the side shelves.



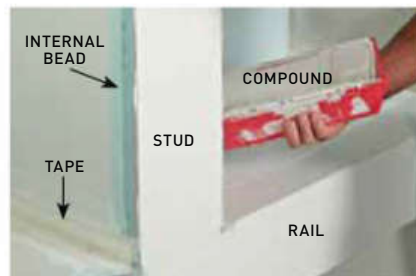
7 Attach the plasterboard

Cut the plasterboard to fit and attach with screws, fitting it tightly at the wall if caulking the back edges. Shave any overhanging edges, securing metal or plastic corner bead with nails or staples. Cover the bead with mesh tape.



8 Prepare the corners

Spread a layer of joint compound on both sides of all internal corners. Fold the tape in half and press in using your fingers, embedding in the compound with a taping knife. Spread a thin layer of compound over the tape and bead.



9 Plaster the joints

Spread a thick layer of joint compound on the studs and front rails, smoothing with a 200mm taping knife, then cover all interior bead and taped joints. Apply a second coat, then a finishing coat, sanding lightly in between. ➤

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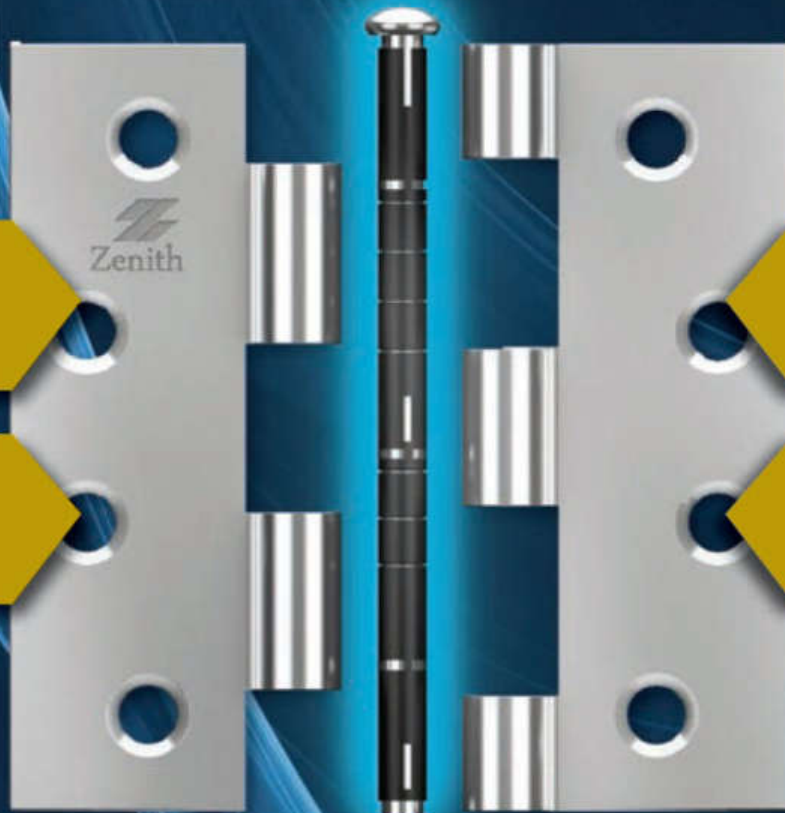
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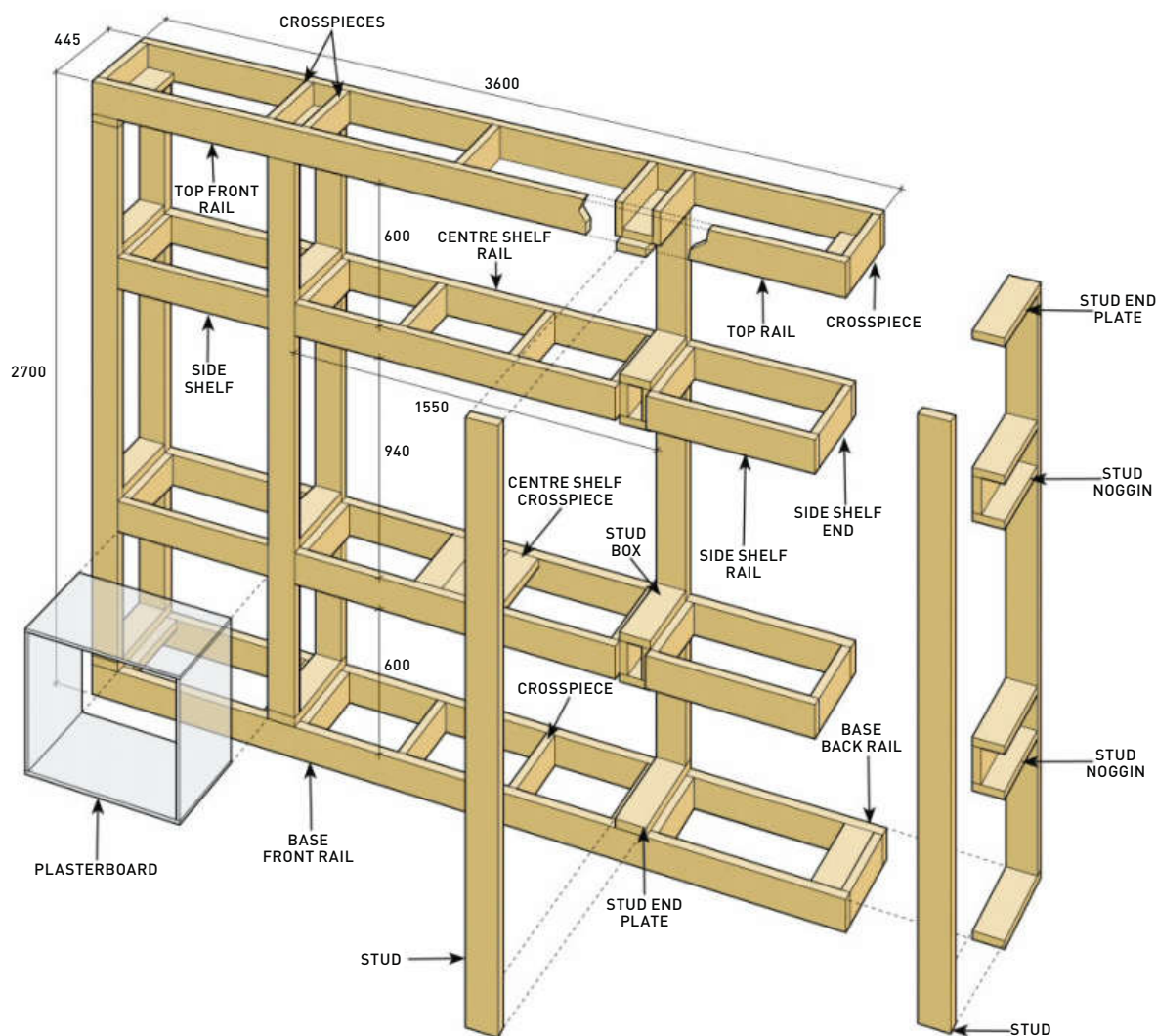
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WALL SHELVING

measurements in mm



CUTTING LIST

PART	SIZE	NO
PINE		
Studs	2350 x 140 x 35	8
Stud end plates	445 x 140 x 35	8
Stud noggins	375 x 140 x 35	12
Stud boxes	375 x 140 x 35	16
Top/base rails	3600 x 140 x 35	4
Top/base crosspieces	375 x 140 x 35	23
Side shelf rails	745 x 140 x 35	8
Side shelf ends	375 x 140 x 35	8
Centre shelf rails	1550 x 140 x 35	4
Centre shelf crosspieces	375 x 140 x 35	9

FASTENERS

TYPE	USE
Timber screws, 75mm x 10g	Frames
Timber screws, 50mm x 8g	Shelves
Galvanised nails, 75 x 3.75mm	Frame assembly
Plasterboard screws, 30mm x 8g	Plasterboard
Plasterboard nails, 30 x 2.0mm	Corner bead

DESIGN TIP

Get the most from your shelves by using the downlights to highlight your favourite display pieces.

Get an electrician to install recessed lighting.

FINISHING TOUCHES

When the framing is complete, you'll need a sparkie to run the cabling for any recessed lighting, switches, powerpoints and TV connections.

This must be done before the framing is covered with plasterboard to make it easy for the tradie.

Once the frame is fully clad in plasterboard, three coats of compound are applied to the taped corners and the corner bead.

To avoid a lot of tricky taping, caulk the back corners. Apply a neat bead of caulk along the joints and smooth with a finger.

Let the compound dry, then sand with 120 grit paper, using a fine sponge with an angled edge to sand the interior corners.

Vacuum the dust, fill any imperfections and sand the filler, then prime and paint.

Finally, get the electrician back to finish any wiring for the TV and lighting. ●

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PLANTER WALL

Lay rows of concrete blocks to build an attractive vertical garden in a day

For an instant D.I.Y. garden feature, use concrete blocks, potted plants and bamboo screening to create a planter wall.

A versatile building material, concrete masonry blocks are cheap and durable with two cavities that are an ideal size for planting up.

This dry-stacked planter wall measures 2730mm wide by 850mm high and is built from 27 concrete

blocks laid in five courses, with 15 used as planters.

Dig a trench 100mm deep and 200mm wide for the base course, checking the top using a spirit level before stacking the remaining blocks.

TIP For a larger wall, use a concrete footing and don't dry-stack higher than four blocks over the base course.



Grow either flowers or vegetables on this feature wall and use a bed of foliage to blend it into the surrounding garden



Firth Concrete Masonry Block, \$5 each. firth.co.nz



Daltons Premium Potting Mix, \$17 for 40L. daltons.co.nz



Coolaroo Weedmat, 900mm x 5000mm, \$5, from Bunnings.

DESIGNING THE WALL

Measure the fence and the space available in front of it, then sketch a plan of the planter wall.

Draw the plan for masonry blocks sized 390 x 190 x 190mm, marking which ones will be turned perpendicular to the dry-stacked courses and how many blocks in total will be planted up when finished.

The sketch will show how many blocks are needed and the number of plants and quantity of weedmat you need to buy.

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5



1 Install the screen

Unroll the bamboo screening and position it against the wall or fence. Secure it to a fence with galvanised U-nails and to a masonry wall with wall plugs and panhead screws.



2 Line the planters

Secure weedmat to the blocks to be planted. Use a utility knife to cut the weedmat 100mm longer and wider than the block base, then fold it over and secure with galvanised U-nails.



3 Build the wall

Lay the blocks in dry-stacked rows. Start by laying a base course in a 100mm deep by 200mm wide trench for stability, placing the planter blocks perpendicular to the rows.



4 Prepare the planters

Add a premium potting mix combined with water storage crystals to the blocks lined with weedmat.

TIP For best results, use a growing medium tailored to the plant species.



5 Finish the wall

Arrange potted plants into a colourful display, then remove each plant from its pot, loosen the rootball and transfer to the prepared blocks. Firm down the mix and water in well.

COMPACT DESIGNS

Forget the rules and apply big principles to a small space to enjoy a garden packed with charm

WORDS SITA SIMONS

PICTURES AUSTRAL

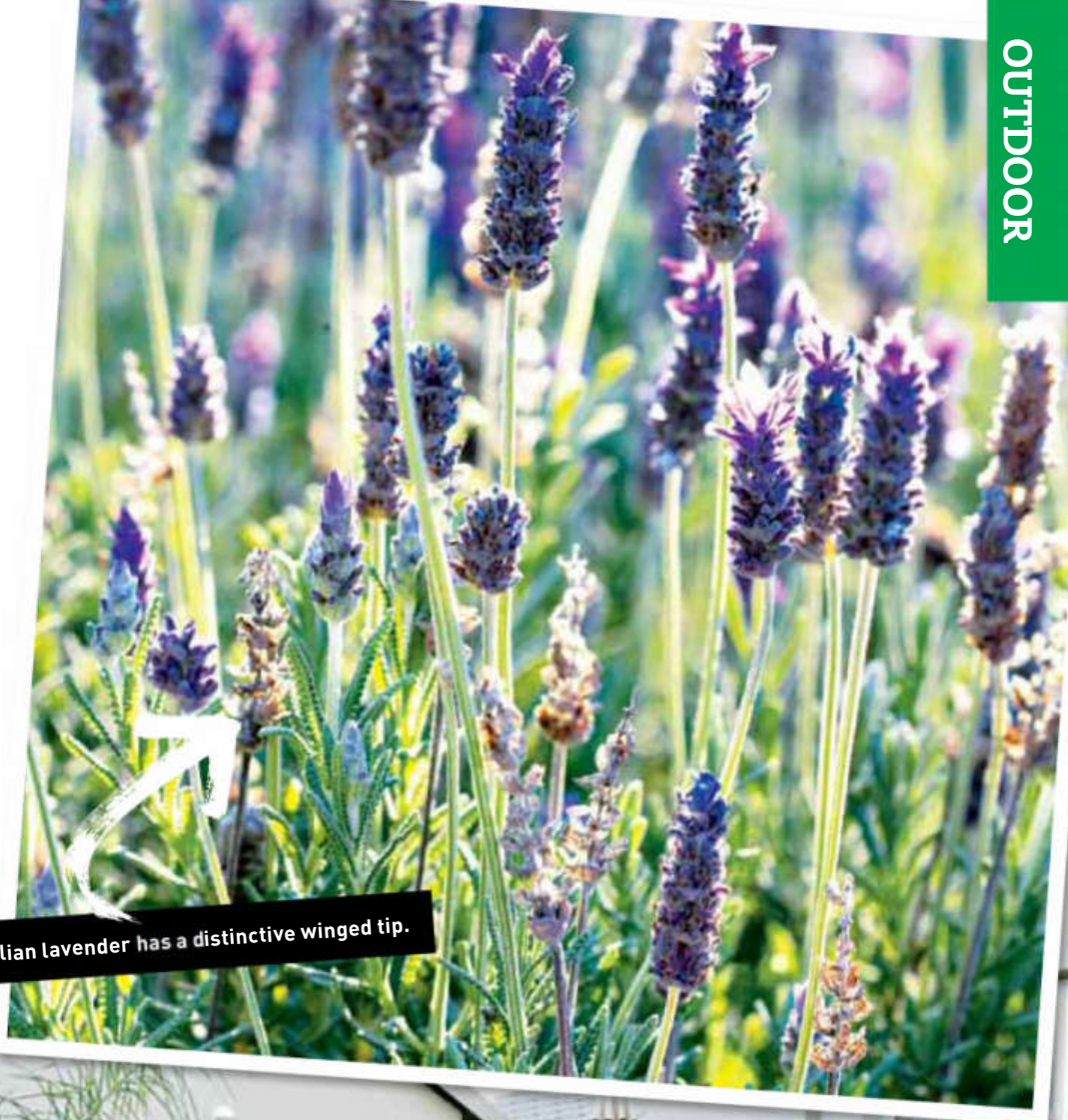
Landscaper Jarret Clynick believes the one thing to remember when designing a new space is that there really are no hard and fast rules.

This principle is evident in the landscaping of the small and stark backyard of this townhouse.

The aim was to create the feel of an expansive garden, and not to be restricted by the yard's size when deciding how it would look.

'Taking into account the climate, aspect and soil type, you can make any style work with the right selection of plants and hard elements,' he says.

'There's no rule that says you can't have stone edging or zoned areas even in a limited space like this one. It's just about scale and proportion.' ➤



Italian lavender has a distinctive winged tip.



Zone areas with borders of plants and flowers.



Use a sculptural feature to break up a bare boundary wall.

Soften the boundaries


Boundary walls and fences, as well as the sides of neighbouring houses, can make a small space feel cramped and hemmed in, especially when they are stark and bare.

Choose plants with small leaves to act as screens and, if the budget allows, buy mature plants and trees.

'You can buy advanced trees, as they are called, like ash trees, from many growers, and buying bigger really works to establish the garden very quickly,' says Jarret.

Sculptural stone features are an acknowledgement of grand formal gardens, and also work to break up boundary lines.

'Stacked stone cladding is a great and inexpensive way to introduce this material into the garden, and it is also light and easy for DIYers to work with,' he says.



A single stone edging formalises and contains the lawn, providing structure and symmetry



Find a sunny spot to grow all types of roses.



Growing roses

All roses, including climbing varieties, need lots of direct sunlight year-round, so pick the right spot. If they don't get enough sun, they'll be spindly and won't flower well.

Ensure the soil is free draining and well fertilised, and don't be too heavy-handed when cutting back so there's plenty of green coverage over the trellis.

Using potted plants

On hard surfaces, pots rule. Think about the space you have and stick to two or three for visual coherence, especially in a small area. The trickiest part can be choosing the right size.

'Buy too big and the risk is the rootball will become unstable in the soil, with too much space to expand in the pot,' says Jarret.

'Save your plant, and potting mix, by filling the pot two-thirds full with polystyrene balls and a layer of porous cloth, then top up with soil. This allows the plant to grow into the pot.' ➤



Succulents work particularly well in groups and are ideal for small arrangements

For best growth, avoid buying pots that are too big for the plants.



Adding climbers

It may not always be appropriate to establish climbers on common walls, but this is no reason to avoid them.

A simple trellis can be built in an upright position rather than against a wall by using just two treated pine posts and a lattice panel.

'A small garden needs features like any garden, but be careful they are not overwhelming,' says Jarret.

'Planting arrangements in layers of varying heights for visual impact is simple and effective.' 🌱



Daisy



Jasmine



Peace lily



STEAL THIS STYLE

Grow climbers over freestanding trellises and use potted plants to create depth in a small garden.

Jarret Clynick,
landscaper

Add texture and colour with ornamental carex grasses.



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Installing an effective, fully integrated surface water drainage system is

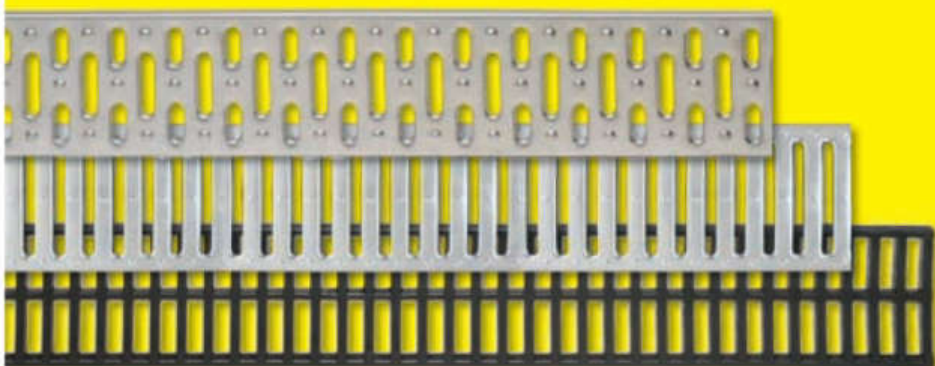
Easy As 1, 2, 3
Prepare • Install • Finish

EasyDRAIN™ Channel and Grate comes in 1 metre and 3 metre lengths and is made from tough, recycled UV stabilised polymer, making it super light and easy to handle.

The EasyDRAIN™ system allows for a range of configurations using the corners, tee pieces and slim pits that simply click together. Pre-moulded outlets allow for easy integration into your existing stormwater system.

EasyDRAIN™ Channel and components come complete with a choice of grates including pressed stainless steel and pressed galvanised steel, or black polymer that has a wheel load rating of 1.5 tonne making it suitable for driveways.

Best of all, installation requires just three easy steps – prepare, install, finish.



A photograph of a garden pond. In the background, there is a wooden gazebo with a lattice roof and sides, containing a wooden table and chairs. To the left of the gazebo, there are tall green reeds and other aquatic plants. A yellow lantern hangs from a black wire over the pond. The pond is bordered by rocks and has a piece of driftwood in the foreground. The water is calm, reflecting the surrounding greenery.

Add a POND

*Design a water feature in your garden
and fill it with aquatic plants to attract wildlife*

DESIGN TIP

Vary the pond edging using logs and rocks to give a natural effect and provide hiding places for frogs and other wildlife.

A garden pond provides a safe haven for wildlife, and the bigger it is, the easier it is to maintain the ecological balance.

Check with the council before installing a pond, but you'll find that a maximum depth of just 300mm is allowed before fencing is required.

Include a gentle slope to the water using sand, gravel or pebbles, plus an underwater shelf around the edge for plants and to help wildlife get out. ➤



Dense poolside plantings offer shelter for wildlife to safely approach the water

SELECT THE SITE

There are several factors to consider when choosing a location for a pond.

➤ **AVOID** shady areas, choosing a site that receives sun for most of the day.

➤ **PICK** a spot that is sheltered from cold winds so the water temperature is less likely to fluctuate.

➤ **POSITION** the pond in the open, away from overhanging trees or big shrubs. Fallen foliage can pollute the water, and the leaves of certain evergreens such as yew and laurel are toxic.

➤ **MEASURE** the area, as the pond should be a minimum of 2 x 2.5m.

➤ **BEFORE** you start the excavation, call the relevant utility company to check the location of any pipes and cables supplying power, water, gas and telecommunications.



Make your fish famous!

Post a pic to Instagram and tag @HandymanMagazine

INSTALL THE POND

Liners are available in two forms, flexible or rigid.

Flexible liner

Available in varying widths, these are easy to install and come in a range of materials from PVC to rubber.

- ① **MARK** the pond outline with rope or a garden hose, then dig out the shelves, which should be about 200mm wide and 250mm deep, sloping inwards.
- ② **DIG** out the rest of the pond, making sure the top is even and level. Position an underlay, such as old carpet or a 50mm layer of sand, in the base to protect the liner from sharp objects.
- ③ **DRAPE** the pond liner over the top and anchor it with bricks or rocks. Fill with water and leave overnight. Trim off the excess liner and finish by edging with stones or rocks.



Aquapro 0.35mm x 4m
PVC Pond Liner, \$113,
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Preformed shell

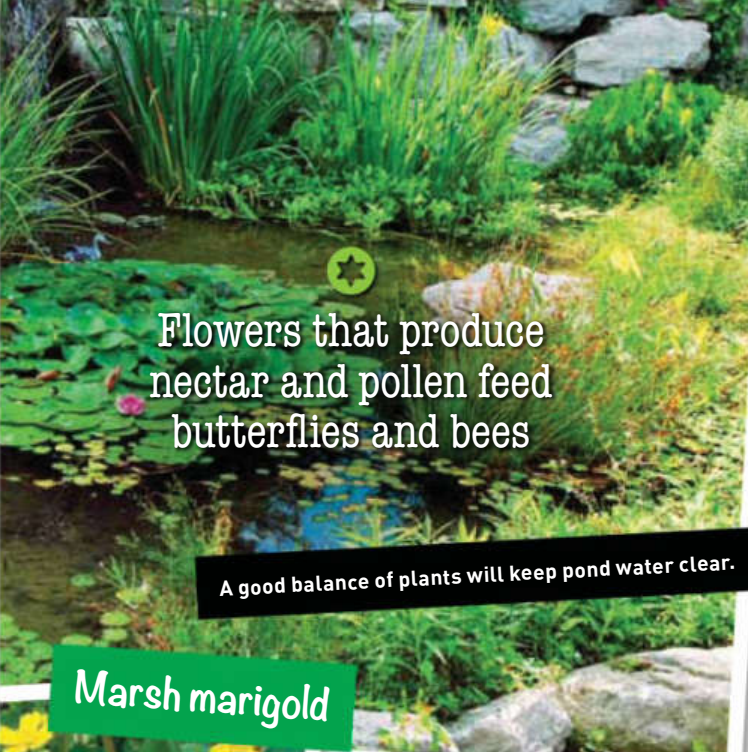
These are available in different shapes, sizes and depths, and some include a shelf for water plants. They're easy to install and very durable.

- ① **POSITION** the shell where you want to locate the pond, then mark the outline with a garden hose or rope. Excavate the hole 50mm wider and deeper than the pond dimensions.
- ② **LINE** the hole with about 50mm of damp sand. Using a spirit level, check the layer of sand covering the base is level, then place the shell in the hole.
- ③ **FILL** the pond with water and, at the same time, fill in the gaps between the pond and the hole with sand and topsoil, ensuring the pond stays level. Allow to settle for a week before placing rocks around the edge.




Japanese sweet flag





Flowers that produce nectar and pollen feed butterflies and bees

A good balance of plants will keep pond water clear.



Marsh marigold

ADD PLANTS

Many plants contribute to pond health, reducing erosion and stabilising water temperature.

Plants also provide breeding sites, vital shelter and feeding grounds for aquatic animals.

To grow pond plants, use plastic baskets and a specially formulated aquatic potting mix, positioning them in deep water and on the underwater shelf.

🌿 **IN DEEP WATER** Grow lotus flowers or waterlilies. These need a depth of 450-600mm.

🌿 **ON THE SHELF** Add plants such as tussock sedge, marsh marigold and red lobelia.

🌿 **AT THE EDGE** Plant varieties like Japanese sweet flag, juncus and apodasmia.

🌿 **ON THE SURFACE** Use floating plants like duckweed and fairy moss to stop algae build-up. 🌿

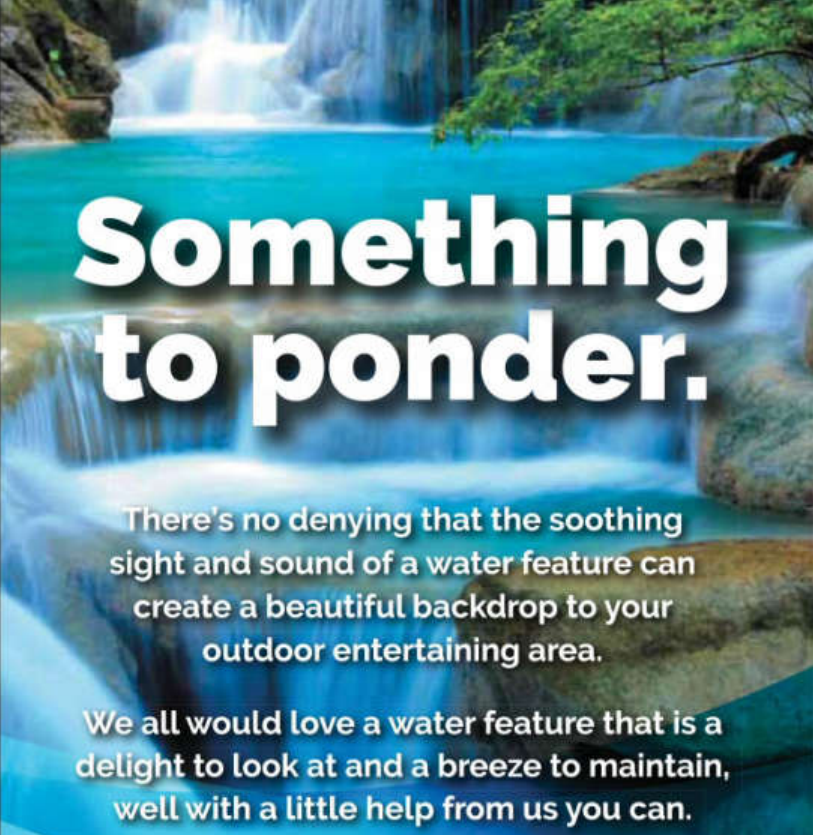


Fairy moss



PICTURES ALAMY, THINKSTOCK

Something to ponder.



There's no denying that the soothing sight and sound of a water feature can create a beautiful backdrop to your outdoor entertaining area.

We all would love a water feature that is a delight to look at and a breeze to maintain, well with a little help from us you can.



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POT UP A POND

A pond is a wonderful feature in any landscape, but it's not always possible to have one in small outdoor spaces.

The solution is to turn a pot into a pond. With just waterproofing paint and epoxy putty, you can convert almost any container into a water feature. All you need is a pot that matches the style of your landscape.

Clean the inside thoroughly, following the surface preparation instructions for the waterproofing paint, then fill any drainage holes with the putty and seal the interior.

Fill the pot with clean water, leave for two days to remove all surface impurities, then empty and refill.

To add waterlilies, check the depth required for the variety and position potted plants in the base of the pot or elevated on bricks.



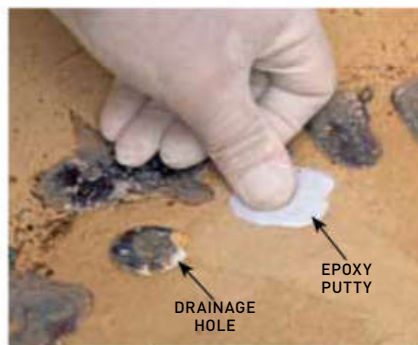
1 2 3



1 Clean the pot

Scrub the pot using a suitable outdoor cleaner and a stiff-bristled brush or broom. Rinse thoroughly, then leave to dry completely.

TIP We used 30 Seconds Outdoor Cleaner to wash the pot interior.



2 Fill the holes

Seal the drainage holes with epoxy putty by kneading a small piece until blended to a consistent colour. Push the putty firmly into the drainage holes, leaving an overlap on the inside of the pot. Allow it to cure.



3 Seal the interior

Apply waterproofing paint to the interior with a roller, allowing it to cure in between coats. Position the pot in its final location, then use a spirit level to check for level from side to side and back to front.

Handyman BUYER'S GUIDE

Take the DIY option for your home improvement projects by choosing the best tools and equipment from our market round-up



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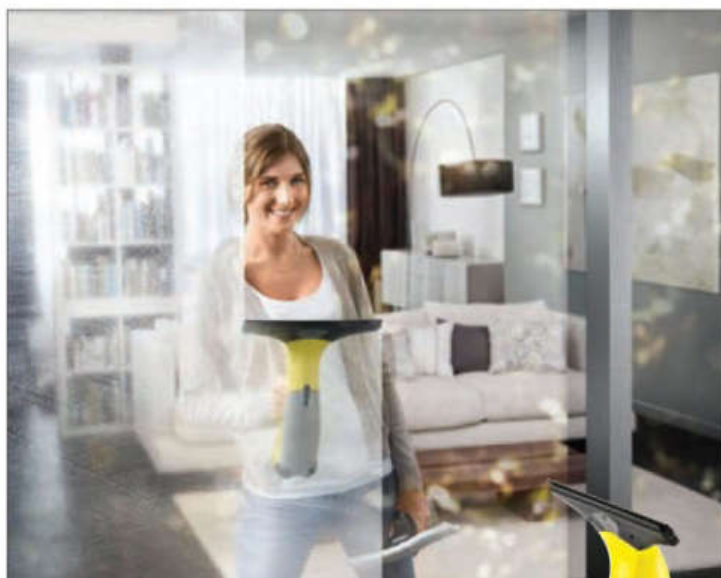
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- Refreshments & nibbles provided
- Get hands-on with real projects
- Demonstrations with hints & tips
- Competitions & prizes

Held on either **29th Sep, 30th Sep, 1st, 6th, 7th, or 8th October.**

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MIFFY,
TEAM MEMBER

D.I.Y. workshops

Our weekend D.I.Y. workshops are packed with hints and tips that will help make your jobs easier and look more professional. Workshops cover a wide range of topics from painting to gardening and everything in between and are suitable for any level.

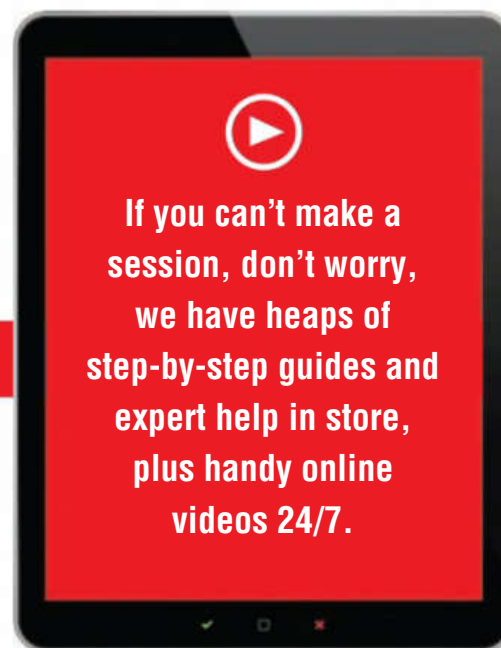
Workshops 11am – 1pm every Saturday and Sunday.

If you can't make a session, don't worry – we have heaps of step-by-step guides and expert help in-store, plus handy online videos 24/7.

Kids' D.I.Y. workshops*

Keep little hands busy on the weekend with our special kids' craft workshops. They'll get a real buzz out of learning to make all sorts of things and will enjoy taking their projects home.

Workshops 10am every Saturday and Sunday.



*Bookings essential. Contact your local store for details.

PERFECT PROPAGATION

Follow our easy guide to creating your own miniature nursery at home

WORDS AND PICTURES ADAM WOODHAMS

Fill the garden with plants you have propagated DIY.

Simply put, propagation is the process of creating new plants from seeds, cuttings or division.

Growing plants by propagating them DIY is a real cost saver if you're trying to get a new garden going.

And it's very rewarding to watch the seeds that you have collected or the cuttings you have nurtured grow into full, mature plants.

It's also a great way to teach kids more about how nature works.

Here are a few step-by-step projects and techniques to get you started. ➤



Adam

EXPERT SECRETS

Never take cuttings from stems that are about to bloom, as they'll direct energy to flowering not rooting.

Most succulents can be very easily grown from cuttings or even leaves that you've accidentally broken off.

CUTTINGS

When you grow from cuttings, you're effectively cloning, creating a new plant with the same characteristics as the parent. This is ideal when you need an exact replica for a hedge or want to share a favourite plant.

Growing from cuttings also gives you the ability to preserve an ailing plant. If it's past its prime, you can start the life cycle again by growing a new specimen from a cutting. Think of it as new plants from old.

It's worth understanding, too, that certain plants, such as roses and citrus, may be grafted onto more vigorous and disease-resistant rootstock, so a cutting from them may not grow very well.



The key to growing from cuttings is taking them at the right time of year for the type of plant

1 2 3

RAISE NEW SUCCULENTS If you have succulents, keep a tray of propagating mix handy. When you accidentally break leaves off a succulent, just pop them in the tray and in no time you'll have a collection of new plants.



1 Prepare the cuttings

Use clean and sharp secateurs to trim any ragged or torn ends from the broken-off succulent leaf or stem base of a cutting, leaving as much of the leaf or stem intact as possible for planting.



2 Make the planting holes

Fill a pot with seed-raising mix and use a stick to make small holes in the mix. Gently position cuttings in the holes, pressing the mix down around them.

TIP Terracotta pots are ideal for succulents, as they breathe more.



3 Position the pot

Water the leaves in, then position the pot in a warm, sunny spot and don't let the mix become or stay too wet. For larger leaves, lean the cuttings against the lip of the pot for support if needed.

RIGHT To pot up cuttings, you need propagating mix, natural honey, an empty plastic drink bottle and a pair of sharp, clean secateurs. **BELOW** Succulent leaf cuttings throw out pup plants fast.





Taking cuttings

Semi-hardwood cuttings are firm but flexible shoots that are only a few months old.

- ✦ **CUT THE SHOOT** to 150mm long and remove leaves from the last 50mm. Cut all other leaves in half.
- ✦ **FILL A POT** with mix and make planting holes. Gently scrape a bit of

bark from the base with your nail. Dip the cutting in honey and plant it, firming down the mix.

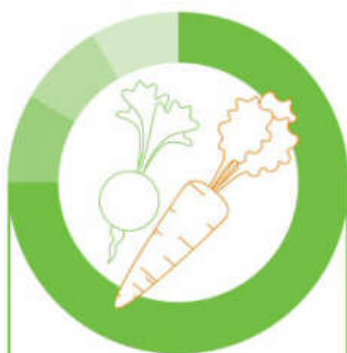
- ✦ **WATER IN WELL** then gently cover the cutting using a plastic bottle with the top cut off. Put in a warm but partially sunny spot. ➤



Why honey?

Honey is effective in helping cuttings strike. It contains antibacterial and antifungal properties that prevent rot and other diseases, and also seems to stimulate root development. For the best results, use natural honey that has not been heat-treated.

PICTURES (BOTTOM RIGHT) THINKSTOCK



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Late October
plant out

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SEEDS

You can buy seeds in packets or collect them directly from your favourite plants. Commercial seeds will grow true-to-form while collected seeds throw genetic variation into the mix.

This means you may get the same form as the parent or something new and totally unique, or the plant may revert closer to its original wild form.

Growing from seed requires both planning and patience. Annuals must be sown in advance and may need protection from the elements at first.

When you collect seeds, check whether they need special treatment to help germination, like storing them in the fridge for a time before sowing.

Many natives produce lots of seeds that are easy to harvest. Some, like the small fleshy seeds of Hibbertia, need their skin removed. To do this, drop the seeds in a half-full bottle of water, put the lid on and shake vigorously.

TIP Perennials, shrubs or trees grown from seed can take years before they reach a substantial size or flower.

It's easy and fun to grow from seed.



Sowing seeds

This is a great project for children, and all you need to get going is a bag of seed-raising mix and a seed tray.

When seedlings have a number of leaves, they are ready to plant in beds or pots. Only plant out the stronger seedlings.

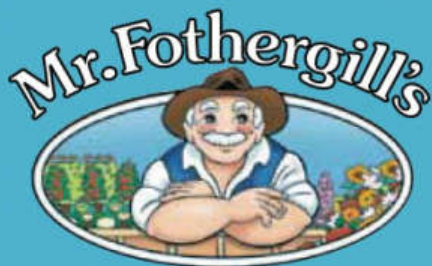
➊ **FILL THE TRAY** with mix, gently firm down and level. The surface should be 5mm below the tray lip.

➋ **SOW THE SEEDS** following the packet directions for depth and spacing, then gently water in.

➌ **INSERT PLANT LABELS** then position the tray in a warm, sunny spot and keep moist but not wet as the seeds germinate.

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Use a mini greenhouse to start seeds.

SAVE TOMATO SEEDS



Been growing a delicious tomato? Save the seeds for next year.

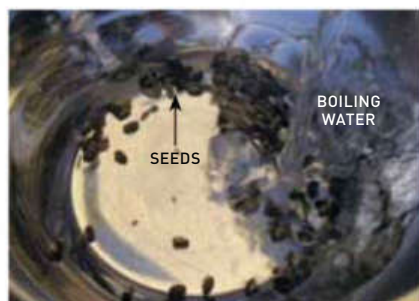
Scoop out some flesh and put it in a sieve, then gently rub under running water until only the seeds remain. Spread the seeds on a paper towel and allow them to dry just enough so they stick to the paper.

Cover them with another square of paper towel and roll it up. Put it in an airtight container with a teaspoon of rice to absorb any moisture.

To sow, cut off squares of the towel and seeds, then lay them seed-side up on moist seed-raising mix. Cover with the mix.

1 2 3

PREPARE THE SEEDS The Kennedia plant has rock-hard seeds that won't germinate without treatment, called scarification, to break the hard skin.



1 PUT THE SEEDS in a bowl and pour over boiling water, then leave the seeds to stand overnight.

TIP The seeds can also be lightly abraded using sandpaper.



2 CHECK THE SEEDS and select only those that have swollen, then spread them evenly in shallow rows in a tray full of seed-raising mix. Cover lightly with mix and water gently.



3 POSITION THE TRAY in a warm spot and keep moist but not wet. Add labels with the plant name and sowing date. In as little as a few weeks, your seeds will be well on their way. ➤

Mr Fothergill's Seeds are now available in Bunnings and independent garden centres nationwide!



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DIVISION

In many ways, division gets the same results as growing from cuttings, as the new plants are clones of the parent.

A big difference is that divided plants are garden-ready and a good size in a short time or even right away.

But division is limited to plants that grow in clumps and spread by their root mass expanding, so it's generally only perennials, not shrubs or trees, that are propagated this way.

Re-potting cymbidium orchids after flowering gives you the chance to divide one plant into many, as a large specimen can quickly become half a dozen or more plants.

To divide them, you need a suitable orchid potting mix and a sharp spade. They love terracotta, as it breathes well.



1 REMOVE THE ORCHID from the pot and position on a firm surface. Find a clear section between leaves and bulbs, then divide the clump using a sharp spade or large garden knife.



2 BREAK UP THE CLUMP further using your hands, wearing gloves. Aim to maintain sections that have at least one or two strongly growing lead bulbs and a few firm back bulbs.



3 REMOVE DEAD ROOTS and leaves, and any spongy or dead back bulbs. Make sure any accidental cuts to surviving bulbs are clean and, if not, tidy up with a sharp knife or secateurs.



4 FILL EACH POT with enough orchid mix so the plant sits at the right height. Tie the leaves up to keep them clear, fill around the roots so the bulbs are above the mix and firm down gently.



5 UNTIE THE LEAVES and water in well with a diluted seaweed solution. Position the divided and potted orchids in a shady spot that is also protected from winds. 🌧️

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A close-up photograph of a honeybee on a yellow flower with many stamens. The bee is positioned on the left side of the frame, facing right, with its head buried in the flower's center. The flower has numerous long, yellow stamens that radiate outwards. The background is a blurred blue sky with some green foliage.

Honey bees were imported to New Zealand from Europe in the 1830s.

The buzz on **BEEES**

Create the best habitat for these beneficial insects
by planting their favourite blooms in your garden

WORDS CHERYL MADDOCKS

One of the first things that comes to mind when you think of honey bees has to be the sweet, syrupy spread you put on your toast.

But there's much more to these bees than just making honey. They are actually crucial to our survival because they pollinate our crops.

About 65% of agricultural production depends on pollination by these insects. This includes vegetables and fruit such as apples, pears, plums and cherries. ➤

Go native

Plant bee-friendly natives in the garden. Good choices include bottlebrush, cabbage tree, harakeke, kanuka, karo, koromiko, kowhai, kumarahou, manatu, manuka, New Zealand laceback, New Zealand jasmine, northern rata, pohutukawa, rewarewa and wharangi.

Kowhai

Rosa rugosa

Herb appeal

Bees love the flowers of herbs such as basil, chives, coriander, mint, parsley, thyme, rosemary, sage, oregano and marjoram. Apple blossom, bedding begonias, citrus flowers, lavender, salvia, species roses, zinnia, and plants in the daisy family (Asteraceae) also appeal.

It's estimated that one in three mouthfuls of food we eat comes to us with the aid of pollination by honey bees

TOP 10 PLANTS BEES LOVE

Calendula

3 Rosmarinus officinalis
Covered with masses of blue flowers, this herb thrives in a hot, dry, sunny position in well-drained soil. It likes alkaline soil, so add dolomite before planting. It can be trimmed as a hedge and prostrate cultivars can be grown as groundcovers or used in hanging baskets.

Catmint

1 Nepeta x faassenii
Don't let the common name, catmint, sway you from planting this favourite. You and the bees will be rewarded with blue flowers on silvery foliage all season. Look out for the low-growing 'Superba' or the tall 'Six Hills Giant'. One haircut midseason will keep this plant looking its best.

2 Calendula officinalis
This edible flower is also known as pot marigold and the yellowish-orange petals can be used in salads or as a garnish. It likes moist, well-drained soil, full sun and cooler temperatures, and will reseed to provide years of beauty and nectar in the garden.

Rosemary

4 Callistemon spp.
The magnificent spring or summer flowers of these native shrubs or small trees are irresistible to bees. Most are hardy and will tolerate dry conditions. Prune bottlebrush lightly after flowering and feed with a fertiliser low in phosphorus.

Bottlebrush

5 Metrosideros excelsa
Also known as the New Zealand Christmas tree because of its red summer flowers, the pohutukawa is a bee favourite. It produces a copious nectar flow, especially in dry seasons, and when in flower the trees literally hum with bees.

Pohutukawa

Sedum

6 Sedum

Planting summer and autumn blooming varieties will appeal to more bees and you'll get season-long flowers. There are many options from groundcovers to upright types for perennial and mixed borders. For best results, grow these heat- and drought-tolerant plants in full sun.

7 *Lavandula angustifolia*

This fragrant plant likes full sun and well-drained soil, and grows well in pots. It comes in pink, purple, white and mauve cultivars.

'Pacific Blue' makes a colourful, fragrant hedge and French lavender (*Lavandula dentata*) flowers almost all year if deadheaded regularly.

Lavender

8 *Digitalis purpurea*

Spires of flowers add vertical interest to the late-spring or early-summer garden. This plant is a great option for gardeners with shady spaces and moist, organic soils. While it is a biennial, foxglove reseeds and tends to remain in the garden for years.

Foxglove

Borage

9 *Borago officinalis*

The blue star-shaped flowers of borage are standout and you can eat the cucumber-flavoured leaves raw, steamed or sautéed.

This annual self-seeds, so it will be a long-lasting member of the garden. Once established, it is drought tolerant.

10 *Heliotropium arborescens*

Vanilla-scented flowers appear on this small shrub from spring to late summer.

It likes a warm climate, well-drained soil and a sunny spot. Prune in early spring to promote bushiness. It is easily grown from spring cuttings.

Heliotrope

Thyme

Bay

Coriander

Dill

Rosemary

Lemongrass

parsley

Basil

Sage

12 *essential edibles*

Add these herbs to your vegie garden to flavour food and avoid wastage

Growing herbs is a natural extension of growing vegies. They like the same conditions and complement one another as much in the garden as they do in the kitchen.

Herbs bring a wonderful flavour to homegrown vegetables when used during cooking or as a garnish, and are a great addition to salads.

And if a recipe only calls for two sprigs of thyme or a tablespoon of basil, there's no wastage, as you can just pick what you need.

They grow well either in the ground or in containers, and there are perennial varieties that live for years, as well as annual or biennial herbs that need to be re-sown.

Oregano

Mint

Tarragon

Pest control

When they're left to flower, herbs like basil, coriander, mint, oregano, parsley, dill and thyme provide an excellent source of food for beneficial insects.

Encouraging these garden guardians, such as hoverflies, wasps and ladybirds, allows nature to take care of many of the insect pests that would otherwise cause problems.

This is biological pest control at its best.

Basil

The unique scent and flavour of this herb has made it an essential ingredient in Italian and Asian cooking.

The most commonly grown is sweet basil. An annual herb, it has large soft leaves and reaches 40cm in height. It is best planted in spring for summer and autumn picking and likes rich, well-drained soil that's kept moist.

While the flowers are edible, they're best removed to encourage leaf growth.

Try the purple-leaved forms or those with lacy dissected foliage to add extra ornamental value to your vegie patch.

Perennial basil will persist through winter in frost-free areas, but the flavour is stronger and not as sweet.

In the kitchen

The main ingredient in pesto, basil is also a perfect partner for tomatoes.

If you are using it in hot dishes, stir it through just before serving to preserve the flavour.

TIP Tear the leaves, as chopping will bruise and discolour them.

Bay

As this Mediterranean plant forms a very large shrub or small tree, it is often grown in a large container to prevent it from getting too big and causing root competition in the vegetable garden.

Bay will grow successfully like this for a long time and respond well to pruning. It also makes an excellent topiary specimen.

Grow it in full sun for the best flavour. ➤

In the kitchen

The glossy dark-green, leathery leaves are used either fresh or dried to give a distinctive taste to soups, stews, sauces and stock.

To add extra flavour to roast vegetables, add a few bay sprigs.

Coriander

Also known as cilantro, this annual herb grows to about 50cm high.

To ensure a plentiful supply, sow the seeds every few weeks in a sunny position in well-drained fertile soil. Remove the flowers to encourage the plant to produce more leaves.

In hot areas, choose slow-bolt varieties that are suited to leaf production and delay flowering.

In the kitchen

All parts of this plant, including the leaves, seeds and roots, can be used to flavour cooked dishes, salads or salsas.

Coriander leaves have a sharp taste and are added to Asian, Indian and Middle Eastern dishes, while the seeds and roots are dried and ground for curries and spice pastes.

Lemongrass

This grass-like herb is a frost-tender perennial and forms a striking clump, adding an architectural element to the garden. The edges of its arching leaves are razor sharp, so position it where it will not cut passersby.

Lemongrass is widely used in South-East Asian cuisines, especially those of Thailand and Vietnam.

In the kitchen

This is used to add a lemon flavour to cooking. Whole stems are bruised and tied together, then added to a dish to infuse while cooking and removed to serve.

The whitish bulb and tender white base of the stem can also be sliced very finely and added directly to cooking.

Parsley

There are two varieties of this herb. Curly parsley, which grows to 30cm high, and the stronger-flavoured flat-leaf, or Italian, parsley which reaches 50cm in height.

It likes a fertile, well-drained soil in sun or partial shade and makes a good border plant. It flowers in its second year and will self-seed.

In the kitchen

The most widely grown culinary herb, parsley is added to cooking or used fresh as an ingredient or a garnish.

A wonderful addition to salads and the main ingredient in tabouli, it can also be teamed with vegetables, fish, eggs, meats, stews and soups.

For the best flavour, add parsley to hot dishes just before serving.

Mint

Popular in Thai and Vietnamese cooking, a use can be found for this versatile herb in any kitchen.

It must be planted wisely in the garden due to its invasive nature. You can grow it in a pot with a saucer or pavers underneath so it can't make direct contact with garden soil and escape.

Mint likes to be kept moist and will thrive in either shaded or semi-shaded positions.

You can choose from many different types, all with different qualities of scent and flavour. Most are low-growing, spreading perennials that reach about 45cm in height.

In the kitchen

Fresh mint leaves can be used with spring vegetables and as a garnish, or added to salads and fruit drinks.

It is used in mint sauce and mint jelly, which is traditionally served with roast lamb.

Fresh or dried leaves also make a refreshing herbal tea.

Oregano

This herb has a distinctive flavour that is at its best when harvested after the small purple flowers start to appear.

It is a hardy perennial that grows to 45cm high and prefers a sunny spot in well-drained soil. It is drought tolerant once established.

There are golden-leaved ornamental forms of oregano and its cousin, sweet marjoram. They do best with a hard prune at the end of autumn.

In the kitchen

The fresh or dried leaves of oregano have a sweet, mild spicy flavour and are used on herb bread, in seasonings, and in Greek, Italian, Spanish and Mexican dishes, especially those including meat, pasta and tomato.

Sweet marjoram has a milder, sweeter flavour than its cousin and is used in Italian cooking. >



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Tarragon

A sun-loving herbaceous perennial herb, French tarragon grows to 60cm high and requires excellent drainage.

It performs best when the old foliage is cut down to ground level at the end of autumn.

In the kitchen

This herb is an essential part of French cooking, and the leaves have a delicate aniseed-like flavour.

Tarragon can be used fresh or dried with fish, poultry, veal, eggs, cheese and salads.

Only a small amount is needed to add a distinct flavour to a dish without overpowering it.

Rosemary

This Mediterranean perennial shrub can reach 2m high, and there are also a number of dwarf and groundcover forms available.

Rosemary needs to be planted in full sun and is very drought tolerant once established.

It can be clipped to form an attractive fragrant hedge around the vegetable patch. Or one of the groundcover varieties can be grown down an embankment or a wall, or used as part of a vertical planting.

In the kitchen

Rosemary's pale-blue flowers and aromatic needle-like leaves can be added fresh or dried to dishes.

It is traditionally used to accompany lamb, but it also works well with chicken and other meats.

Sprigs can be sprinkled over vegetables when you roast them to add a lovely flavour.

Dill

Featuring fine, feathery foliage, this annual herb grows up to 1-2m high. The seeds can be saved for future planting.

It prefers a sunny position in moist soil with good drainage.

In the kitchen

The foliage has a parsley-caraway smell and is used fresh as a classic partner with eggs, soft cheeses, white sauces, vegetables, seafood and chicken dishes.

If adding fresh dill to cooking, do so just before serving as the flavour diminishes with heat.

Thyme

This Mediterranean herb has many different forms, ranging from creeping, flat groundcovers to low, rounded shrubs growing to 30cm high.

The foliage varies in colour and the flowers can be white, pink or purple. They are highly ornamental and make excellent border plants or groundcovers between pavers or stepping stones.

All types are very drought tolerant once established and like a sunny spot.

In the kitchen

The leaves, and the stalks, can be used fresh or dried in soups, stews and poultry, meat and fish dishes.

The varieties all have different flavours, which include lemon, caraway and bitter orange, as well as true or common thyme.

It is best added at the start of cooking, as the taste is quite strong.



Sage

While there are many ornamental types of sage, culinary sage, also called garden or common sage, forms a round shrub that grows to 1m high. It has grey-green foliage and soft blue flowers.

There are several culinary varieties with attractive foliage that can be tinged purple, marbled gold and green, or variegated pink, white and green.

Drought tolerant once established, it likes a sunny spot in well-drained soil.

In the kitchen

The leaves of this herb are used in cooking, often accompanying fatty meats such as duck. Sage is also added to poultry seasonings, casseroles and soups.



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